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T-PVS/DE (2016) 9

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

GROUP OF SPECIALISTS ON THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

7 March 2016
Strasbourg, Palais de l'Europe, Room 11

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**UPDATED PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FULFILMENT OF THE
RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS
CM/RESDip(2012)19 ON THE RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA
TO POLONINY NATIONAL PARK
FOR THE MEETING OF THE GROUP OF SPECIALISTS ON THE
EUROPEAN DIPLOMA**

*Document prepared
by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic*

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July 2016

State: **The Slovak Republic**

Name of the area: **National Park POLONINY (hereafter the “Poloniny NP”)**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas:

The Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)11 on the renewal of the European Diploma of the Protected awarded to the Poloniny NP (Slovakia)¹ /hereafter “Resolution No (2012)19”²

1. CONDITIONS:

Resolution No(2012)19 contains 5 conditions

<i>Condition No. 1: Finalise and adopt the management plan for the park within two years of the renewal</i>
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In May 2015, the Administration of the Poloniny NP prepared the **draft Poloniny NP Management Plan**. The part of the preparation process was to inform relevant stakeholders about the management objectives and tasks and about the possibilities and conditions under which stakeholders may be involved in their implementation. Consultations gave more space to discussions about opportunities provided by natural and cultural potential of the area of the national park. This form of dialog replaced former one-sided form of informing owners, land users, land managers, local governments and the public about the nature protection and the possibilities of loss compensation. The result of the discussion, which goes beyond the interests of nature conservation, is included in the Action plan which is annex to the draft Poloniny NP Management Plan.

Management plan is the official documentation according to the § 54 of Act No 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended (hereinafter the “Act No 543/2002 Coll.”). Its structure is provided in the Appendix 18 of the Order of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No 24/2003 Coll. as amended. The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the district office at the county and the State Nature Conservancy of the SR realized the whole process of public hearing and commenting of the document in the way that more relevant subjects could comment on the draft. After all discussions, the draft was approved by the Ministry of Environment and sent for inter-departmental commenting procedure. The Management Plan for the Poloniny National Park for period 2017-2026 **was finally approved by the Government of Slovak Republic on July 7th, 2016.**

<i>Condition No. 2: Start work on devising a new blueprint for forestry and hunting management in the diploma-holding area, taking greater account of the biological imperatives dictated by its European significance, within one year of the renewal. The national authorities shall supply a strategic plan for the sustainable development of the woodland during the next period of validity of the diploma and inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made. This blueprint shall include revision of the current hunting allocation in the diploma-holding area, ensuring that the functional units each cover a surface area of 3 000 to 4 000 hectares, consistent with the biology of large herbivores.</i>

Forest management:

The whole area of the Poloniny NP is protected by the 3rd level of protection according to Act No 543/2002 Coll., e.g. there are specific restrictions and regulations applied, including the forest management. In general clear cutting is eligible only in a limited scale and under specifically listed conditions, namely: in pine, poplar, willow and robinia forest stands; plantages for energetic purposes and in the process of forest reconstruction. These types of the forest cover does not occur in the NP Poloniny therefore clear cutting is not used in that area.

¹ adopted at the 1146th meeting of the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012, valid by 18 September 2018

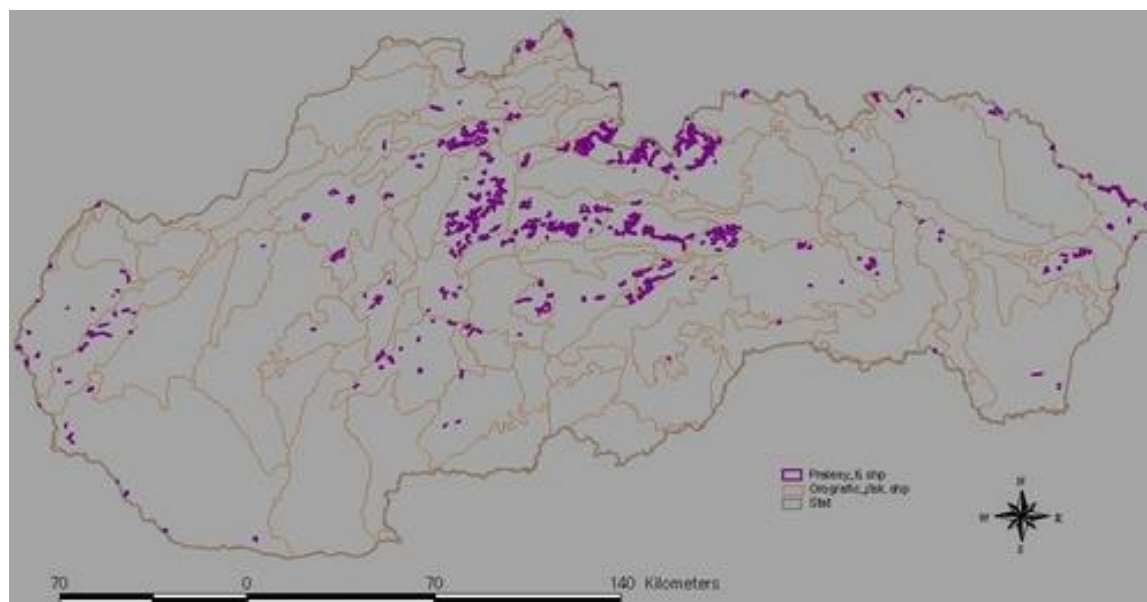
² Originally resolution No (1998)26, resolution No (2003)2 and No 2008)3, respectively

Forest categorization is in accordance with the approved **Forest Maintenance Plans** (valid for 10 year period) along with the prescribed measures, methods and models. Shelterwood system, which was applied in the area also before the declaration of national park, is still applied. From the esthetical point of view this is not suitable method for national park.

Forest category	Surface area until 2014 (in %)	Surface area after the renewal in 2014 (in %)	Surface area after the creation of Natural Reserve "Borsukov Vrch" (in %)
Commercial forests	17,751.68 ha (65.23 %)	17,599.04 ha (64.59 %)	17,527.20 ha (64.32 %)
Special purpose forests	7,330.16 ha (26.94 %)	7,630.43 ha (28.00 %)	7,702.27 ha (28.27 %)
Protective forests	2,131.17 ha (7.83 %)	2,018.22 ha (7.41 %)	2,018.22 ha (7.41 %)
Total:	27,213.01 ha (100 %)	27,247.69 ha (100 %)	27,247.69 ha (100 %)

The Management Plan for the Poloniny NP modifies the requirements to change the current management. It mainly refers to the core zone of the Slovak part of Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany World Heritage Property and its buffer zone. Based on the definition of primeval forest there were not economic interventions in the area of primeval forests and remains of primeval forests. Natural forests (primeval forests and remains of primeval forests) in Slovakia were indentified based on the complex spatial inventory. To preserve primeval forests and remains of primeval forests it is necessary to exclude all anthropogenic interventions which could influence its natural development. Non-intervention regime without any management measures, including exclusion of measures associated with treatment or rehabilitation of calamity is applied only in the 5th level of protection. In those forests the activities of security service and health supervision are allowed, as well as implementation of research and scientific or experiential tourism. For this purpose, in 2016 the Nature Reserve Borsukov vrch was designated on the state owned land. The reserve connects identified primeval forests and remains of primeval forests in the area of the Poloniny NP. Together with localities of natural forests (primeval forests) in Poland and Ukraine, it creates protected area of remarkable size and quality characteristics.

The Slovak Republic, as one of the member countries of the Carpathian Convention, is committed to take specific measures oriented at compensations for costs or economic loss arising from the need to take management measures in the area. Granting of compensation payments to cover the increased costs of land management is also part of several operational programs and financial mechanisms of the European Union.



Game management:

The positive fact is that the outcome of negotiations with local stakeholders is involvement of the local hunters and hunting organizations. They want to be involved in the management of large carnivores, management of ungulates and care about them. Those activities are included in the Action Plan as it follows:

- Twice a year, conduct a census of large carnivores in the presence of nature conservation, local hunters and foresters. To eliminate duplication of census it is necessary that each participant is equipped with a camera and a specific subject of the delivery on the day of census. Successful management of large carnivores is possible only on condition that the real number of animals is known.
- Once a year, control of antlers found in a given year in the territory of the NP Poloniny. Based on the results of the control the trend of the population of deer will be determined. According the size and quality of antlers the idea of cynegetic reserve can be implemented better. The idea shows the need to primarily hunt the subspecies *Cervus elaphus hippelaphus* and preserve the individuals of *Cervus elaphus montanus*. The quality status of deer population is also a good indicator of wolf population quality.
- Local Hunters wants that the local hunting organizations will take over the care and management of wild European bison (*Bison bonasus*), however this as well as previous points depend on the financial sources.

An important step by the administration of the Poloniny NP is to ensure cooperation with the District Hunting Chamber in Humenne on education of professional hunters through various seminars, training courses and practical demonstrations. A positive step is also the participation of employee of Poloniny NP in the meetings of the Advisory Board for the breeding area Poloniny Carpathians. Advisory Board is the body which decides on hunting management in the breeding area. Employee of the Poloniny NP is entitled to vote and make suggestions for change in management measures, which means that he can influence the course of hunting in the area.

Condition No. 3: Create a functional network of protected areas during the next period of validity, meeting international standards in this area and complying with the national Law on Nature and Landscape Protection (notably sections 28 and 30).

As already mentioned the whole area of the Poloniny NP is protected by the 3rd level of protection according to the Act 543/2002 Coll. Nature reserves, national nature reserves etc. that have higher level of protection. There were several proposals on creation of natural reserves prepared and negotiated but without a complete support of stakeholders which is irremissible in accordance with the valid Act 543/2002 Coll.

It is this process that was one of the causes for the deep mistrust of the local population towards nature conservation bodies.

Character of Poloniny did not allow intensive agricultural use of land. Non-forest (previously deforested) land was generally used mainly for grazing and mowing. Symbiosis between human activity and nature created exceptional semi floristic communities, which by their nature fit into the existing natural ecosystems characteristic for the area. Non-intervention regime was implemented also in those parts of the park, but it was mainly used in forests with economic use.

Changed legal framework and improved communication led to the already mentioned proposal to designate Borsukov Vrch Nature Reserve (146,8 ha in the most strict level of protection).

The possibility of declaring more strictly protected areas, namely "PR Černiny" and "PR Pramenisko Cirochy" with the fifth degree of protection is conditional upon obtaining the consent of the owners. They consider very important for the state to show a willingness not only to declare protected areas, but to consider owners as partners when making decisions about changes in the current nature protection measures. They also welcome draft Poloniny NP Management Plan and the way how it was prepared, as well as possibility to cooperate with the State Nature Conservancy within the calls aimed at funding

measures through the Operational program of environmental quality, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment. The council of land and forest owners associations agreed to include new areas of primeval forests into the strictly protected areas, based on the compensation schemes (SNC SR will compensate loss of the income from management) – discussion on the amount of compensation is under way, with the expected result and decision until the end 2016. Afterwards, process of designation of new protected areas along the Polish border will start again, but this time with the agreement of land owners, which in previous periods did not agree with this management and procedures.

Condition No. 4: Pursue the steps taken to purchase private forests and draw up a future purchasing plan with specific objectives, indicating the funding to be assigned to this purpose each year.

The purchase of land from private owners is only one of the possibilities how to maintain suitable management of the area. Other instituted instruments to rearrange relations in the protected areas are lease, exchange of land, contractual measures and financial compensation. The amendment of Act No. 543/2002 Coll. effective from 1st January 2014 has also brought the obligation to prepare the **list of lands eligible for land exchange, lease or purchase and contractual management** until 30th June each year (§ 61.3 – see in the already mentioned document 2). In accordance with the aforementioned provision, the SNC created such a list also for the territory of the Poloniny NP. The list shall be negotiated by the SNC with the owners.

As already mentioned in the Condition No 1 the SNC elaborated an official **calculation of leasing amount for different private (non-state) owners**. That is another important document for negotiations with the land owners. Based on this document and future discussions and change of their thinking and expectations, negotiations on compensations (or land loaning) is going on – mentioned in condition no. 3.

Condition No. 5: Set up a scientific programme inventorying and monitoring the large carnivore populations in the diploma-holding area; the national authorities shall submit the scientific protocol for that programme for opinion to the Group of Specialists on the Diploma within one year of the renewal.

The SNC implements **project aimed at large carnivores** and has informed the Council of Europe about these in its annual reports. Details on the Project is in the document 7 “LARGE CARNIVORES”³, the list of relevant projects, research studies and publication is in the document 8 “RESEARCH_Poloniny”⁴. Study on ethology of the brown bear population in Slovakia, study on evaluation of the size of the brown bear, study on healthy conditions of the brown bear population and study on complex identification of the population of large carnivores and a wild cat in Slovakia already resulted in preliminary quantity/quality data on above species.

There are 2 important issues concerning the wolf: since 2014 it is fully protected in the area. **Management plan for the wolf at national level was approved by the Ministry of Environment at the beginning of 2016. This document is binding for the ministry and its organizations as well as for the management of the species nation-wide.** It was developed in coordination with the MoA, the National Forestry Centre, the Technical University in Zvolen, University of the Veterinary Medicine Košice and involved NGOs and is widely accepted by the public.

Similarly, **management plan for brown bear** is under development to complete already existing procedure – guidance for regulatory hunting brown bear. It is necessary to stress that this species has not been hunted for long period (no permission issued). Expected to be approved by the ministry of environment during September 2016, after the discussion and acceptance within the Group of experts coordinated by the MoE.

The Poloniny NP Administration entered into **cooperation with the Nature Conservancy Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków, Poland**. As part of this co-operation, the parties shall mutually exchange position data of two bears from Poland, currently living in the Poloniny NP, remotely monitored by GPS and GSM technology.

³ http://www.sopsr.sk/european_diploma_poloniny/

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution No(2012)19 contains 7 recommendations

Recommendation No. 1: Give the management of the diploma-holding area greater responsibility for forestry and hunting matters and involve it in the corresponding decision-making process

Division of the competencies for the management of protected areas among different ministries is model commonly used also in other countries which are members of the Council of Europe. Competencies of relevant ministries are based in the “Competency Act” adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Competencies with respect to the nature protection issues as well as forestry, hunting, fishing, etc. are divided to the administration bodies (ministries, district offices) and other institutions (such as the SNC). The Administration of the Poloniny NP is therefore only part of the relevant institutional framework. Along with the professional employees there is a network of voluntary guards – rangers (specifically for nature, forestry, hunting, fishing) appointed according to the respective legal acts (conditions, rights and responsibilities, training, period etc.). In the Poloniny NP there are 7 voluntary nature guards. According to the Act No 274/2009 Coll., there is an obligation of one person of the hunting guard for each 500 ha of the hunting district.

Responsibilities of the SNC (including its unit - the Poloniny NP Administration) have been significantly strengthened in the amendment to the Act No. 543/2002 Coll.. New rights and obligations have been introduced significantly improving the competence and powers of the organization. The most important one are listed in the § 65a of the Act No 543/2002 Coll. (e.g. signed loan agreements with the land-owners, comment the process of preparation of forestry management plans and providing data for their preparation).

In addition to this, an inter-ministerial agreement between the MoE and the MoA was signed in February 2015 aimed at the fulfilment of obligations concerning the UNESCO convention and the European Diploma (original in Slovak language and translation into English is in the document 9_AGREEMENT_MoA_MoE⁴).

Recommendation No. 2: Consider the signature of a simplified agreement between the bodies directly responsible for managing the protected areas on the borders of the three neighbouring countries (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine), based on the programming of joint activities;

Fulfilled – a trilateral agreement (copy in the document “10a_TRILATERAL AGREEMENT”⁵) was concluded on 15th November 2013, as part of the Eastern Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. The Steering Council of this biosphere reserve also includes the administrations of the relevant national parks and protected landscape areas; these jointly manage and coordinate cross-border activities within the scope of the Steering Council in the annual meetings. 7

Within the management of trilateral international protected area of Natural World Heritage site in Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathian and Ancient Forests of Germany, the trilateral co-operation continued especially with interchange of information and experience at the **Joint Management Committee** session held on 14th May 2014 in Bonn, Germany. During this session, the representatives of the competent ministries of Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany signed the document (attached as document “10b_JOINT DECLARATION”⁵) the *Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic concerning the Cooperation on the Protection and Management of the Joint World Heritage property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)”*. In this document, the participants expressed their will to provide mutual support and cooperation concerning the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the Joint World

⁴ http://www.sopsr.sk/european_diploma_poloniny/

Heritage property to future generations. Next upcoming meeting is planned for the second part of October in the Poloniny NP.

Recommendation No. 3: pursue efforts to upgrade human resources, in particular by taking on more technical staff and wardens, and very substantially step up funding, at least doubling the annual ratio per hectare for the period of validity of the diploma.

The number of basic staff members increased from 12 persons in 2014 on 13 persons in 2015.

Institutional financing of the administration which was assessed by the expert are only the part of financial sources which the Poloniny NP Administration has in disposal. Large amount of money are secured and provided via projects, grants and contributions from the MoE, Environmental fund etc. directly to the SNC or to the local stakeholders based on their requests.

As part of the project already started and financed from Norwegian funds via the Government Office of the Slovak Republic since **September 2015 there are 3 new positions** within the SNC, including the Poloniny NP Administration. **Another seasonal work position was established** at the information Centre of the Poloniny NP in Nová Sedlica. This person provides information about the Poloniny NP to the public, the tourists and the visitors of the area in the main touristic season.

Agenda of the Poloniny NP and its international commitments is tackled also by 2 experts implementing the Swiss project "Development of Nature Conservancy and Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians" (hereinafter "Swiss project") as well as 1 coordinator of international cooperation. Agenda of all these employees is mostly aimed to the Poloniny NP region.

In addition to this, multiple activities shall be implemented within the area, outsourced by the SNC.

Other possibilities of employment of national park and its cooperating organizations is supported by the different projects (above mentioned Swiss and Norwegian Funds) where also excursions and visits in other countries took place to present possibilities of cooperation and support in the region.

As mentioned above there are **7 voluntary rangers**. Their activities are coordinated by the Poloniny NP Administration and District Office in Prešov and they are mainly oriented on enforcement of the legislation (in the field).

Recommendation No. 4: Give full protection to wolves and ban shooting them throughout the area of the national park.

Fulfilled – since 2014 wolf is fully protected species in the whole area of the Poloniny NP, its protective zone as well as in the adjacent Východné Karpaty Protected Landscape Area. This is result of amendment (and compliance) of both the nature protection and hunting legislation, namely the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No. 344/2009 Coll. executing the Hunting Act as amended and the Order of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No 24/2003 Coll. implementing the Act No 543/2002 Coll. as amended. According to the official hunting statistic since 2013 no wolf was hunt in the Poloninské Karpaty Hunting Area.

Recommendation No. 5: Strongly consider the designation of a hunting district within the park as a strict cynegetic reserve.

As already mentioned under the Condition No 2 hunting was subject to intensive consultation among MoE, MoA (and their institutions) and the Slovak Hunting Chamber. At their meeting with the 2 main local stakeholders on August 21st, 2015 it was concluded that **hunting management is in compliance with national legislation** and that the **Statute of the Poloninské Karpaty Hunting Area** (lastly updated in 2010) will be amended to more consider objectives of the Poloniny NP and to apply experience from the Poľana Protecting Hunting Area. The employee of NP Poloniny Administration became a member of Regional hunting board, where the opinion of the nature conservancy bodies are implemented.

Recommendation No. 6: Pursue the efforts to restore buildings in the traditional regional style; the park might devise a charter of architectural rules for local authorities.

Activities related to this recommendation undertaken by the municipalities, local companies and NGOs (tourist, culture and nature heritage) were supported from **Swiss project** mainly via small grant program. Similar support is planned also as part of the Norwegian project.

Excursion for relevant stakeholders was organized in October 2014 to the Switzerland to support the feeling of these responsible stakeholders how to promote their area and commonly support rural development. In 2015, the SNC motivated municipalities to increase their involvement in the **village renewal programme** (traditional instrument supported annually from the state budget). On 5th May 2015 a **seminar in the Poloniny NP was held to inform local stakeholders on the newly approved operational programs to use EU funds (2014-2020)**, namely the Rural development programme, Environment Quality operational programme, Poland - Slovakia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme. This already resulted in submission of more application for financial support.

Recommendation No. 7: Start experimenting with the selective felling of beech forest in a state-owned woodland unit; the national authorities shall inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made.

As part of the Swiss project the SNC has commissioned the "**Creation of a Proposal of Forest Management Measures for the Buffer Zone of the Carpathian Beech Forests**" in the Poloniny NP. 9

The proposal of these **forest management measures** was prepared by the professional qualified person in August 2015. It is based on the valid forest management documentation (Directive No 1/2014 of the Slovak National Forest Centre - Forest management planning Institute entitled "Work Procedure for the Creation and Design of Multi-Stratum Vegetation Management Measures in Forest Management Plans"). The proposal consists of general proposals (made according to the age classes) and specific proposals for totally 9 forest units in the Poloniny NP. The proposal was prepared by a professionally qualified person in August 2015 and shall contribute to the improvement of the state of forests, taking the conservancy of natural beech forests into account. It will be basis for negotiations with the forest-owners during the September 2015 on specific measures.

3. SITE MANAGEMENT:

No changes of the environment since the last annual report. Changes regarding to staff/finances are described under recommendation No 3.

4. BOUNDARIES:

No change of the boundaries.

5. OTHER INFORMATION:

Appart for already mentioned significant changes of nature protection and hunting **legislation** there were not adopted any significant changes in legislation.

31th July, 2016

Prepared by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Directorate of Nature Protection, Biodiversity and Landscape of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

Annex 1 – Letter dated 14 July 2016 from the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**
NÁM. Ľ. ŠTÚRA 1, 812 35 BRATISLAVA 1, SLOVAKIA
Nature Protection, Biodiversity and Landscape Directorate

Mr Eladio Fernandez –Galiano
Head of Democratic Initiatives
Dpt., Council of Europe
F – 67075 Strasbourg – Cedex,
France (email only)

Your letter/dated
Email dated 26th May 2016

Our letter
5189/2016-2.1
39516/16

Contact person/☎
Jana Durkošová/+421 2 5956 2211

Bratislava
July 14th, 2016

Ref. EUROPEAN DIPLOMA for the Poloniny National Park - update

Dear Mr Fernandez-Galiano,

Following to the previous communication including the letter No 5189/2016-2.1 of May 4th, 2016 I am very pleased to inform you that on July 7th 2016 the **Management Plan for the Poloniny National Park for period 2017 – 2026 was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic**. The document (the 70 page management plan itself with its 25 annexes) as well as other obligatory parts of the material for the consideration of the government are available at the page:

<http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=25732>.

The management plan is structured according to the valid nature protection legislation and was prepared mainly by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic. It was discussed during preparation and finally negotiated with the involved owners and users of the land as well as other ministries and other relevant state bodies as well as with 2 involved NGOs.

More information as well as the English summary of the document and translation of the most relevant annexes will be provided in the progress report. The progress report will be sent directly by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic by the end of July, 2016 and presented during the Bern Convention Bureau Meeting in September 2016, by Mr Michal Adamec, current Bureau member. Any possible information may be based on your written request.

This letter is sent only electronically to Eladio.Fernandez-Galiano@coe.int; Iva.Obretenova@coe.int; Miriam.joklova@mzv.sk; Dana.kolecova@mzv.sk; Aurelia.Fule@mzv.sk; Drahoslav.Stefanek@mzv.sk; Tomas.Grunwald@mzv.sk; Marcela.Hanusova@mzv.sk; Barbara.Ilikova@mzv.sk; Milan.Kollar@mzv.sk; Miriam Joklova@mzv.sk and edita.filadelfiova@mzv.sk.

Thank you very much for your support. Yours sincerely,

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Annex 2 – Letter dated 30 July 2016 from the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic



STATE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

TAJOVSKÉHO 28B, 974 01 Banská Bystrica

Mr Eladio Fernandez – Galiano
Head of Democratic Initiatives
Dpt., Council of Europe
F – 67075 Strasbourg – Cedex,
France

Your ref.

Our ref.
ŠOPSR 2915/2016

Attended to by
Jana Pokrievková

B. Bystrica
July 30th 2016

Ref. EUROPEAN DIPLOMA for the Poloniny National Park – updated information

Dear Mr Fernandez – Galiano,

As you were already informed by the Ministry of the Environment of the SR, the Management Plan for the Poloniny National Park for period 2017 – 2026 was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic on July 7th 2016. Slovak version of the document and its all annexes can be found at the page:

<http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=25732>.

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic is very pleased to send you the progress report for the Poloniny National Park. The reporting period is 31st September 2015 – 20th July 2016. The progress will be also reported by Michal Adamec during the Bern Convention Bureau Meeting in September 2016. The Management Plan together with its annexes is to be translated to English and as soon as the translation will be finished, we will send it to you and to specialists of Group of Specialists on the European Diploma, to be evaluated before the meeting of group of specialists, as agreed that competent authorities will provide a copy of the management plan of the Park, as well as its English translation, after its adoption. This report is only preliminary to provide updated news before the Bureau meeting in September and will be send in updated version in October as well.

If you have any question, please do not hesitate to write us.

Yours sincerely

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Director General

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March 2016

State: **The Slovak Republic**

Name of the area: **National Park POLONINY (hereafter the “Poloniny NP”)**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas:

The Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)19 on the renewal of the European Diploma of the Protected Areas awarded to the Poloniny NP (Slovakia)⁵ /hereafter “Resolution No (2012)19”/⁶

Some details mentioned in this report are already included in the document no. T-PVS/DE (2015) 13 presented on the 35th meeting of Standing Committee, Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015 as “Updated Progress Report on the Fulfilment of the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers (2012)19 on the European Diploma to the Poloniny National Park”, report with annexes available on http://www.sopsr.sk/european_diploma_poloniny/.

1. CONDITIONS

Resolution No (2012)19 contains 5 conditions

<i>Condition No. 1: Finalise and adopt the management plan for the park within two years of the renewal</i>
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With the aim to finalise and adopt the Management plan for NP Poloniny, **the Government of the Slovak Republic (itself or via respective ministries) undertook the following steps in the years 2014 and 2015:**

- Amendment of the Act No 543/2002 on Nature **along with 2 other legal norms** with the aim
 - **to enlarge economic instruments** (addition the **lease** of the land, **exchange** of land and **contractual measures** to complete the existing tools – purchase of land and financial compensation), details are provided in the §§60 and 61 of the Act No 543/2002 on Nature related to the financial contribution and
 - **to optimize the process of designation of protected areas** (preliminary negotiations on the preferable economic instruments with land owners/users, looking for consensus via the written agreements, more detail analysis of financial and social impacts of initiatives of nature protection bodies; specification of details of the compulsory nature documentation; approval of all proposals by the government, etc.).
- Amendment to the Act No. 543/2002 on Nature **to delegate new rights and obligations of the SNC⁷**; the most important ones are listed in the § 65a of the Act No 543/2002 on Nature (e.g. **signed agreements with the land-owners**, comments the process of preparation of **forestry management plans** and providing data for their preparation).
- Amendment of both nature protection and hunting legal norms (e.g. the Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No. 344/2009 Coll. executing the Hunting Act as amended and the Ordinance of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No 24/2003 Coll. implementing the Act No 543/2002 Coll. as amended) **to fully protect the wolf⁸ – since 2014 - in the whole area of the Poloniny NP, its protective zone as well as in the adjacent Východné Karpaty Protected Landscape Area.**

⁵ adopted at the 1146th meeting of the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012, valid by 18 September 2018

⁶ Originally resolution No (1998)26, resolution No (2003)2 and No (2008)3, respectively

⁷ *Recommendation No. 3: pursue efforts to upgrade human resources, in particular by taking on more technical staff and wardens, and very substantially step-up funding, at least doubling the annual ratio per hectare for the period of validity of the diploma;*

⁸ *Recommendation No. 4: give full protection to wolves and ban shooting them throughout the area of the national park;*

- Adoption of **Operational program Quality of the Environment 2014-2020** with 3 triple allocation for biodiversity protection (comparing 2007 – 2013) and precise targeting of priorities and indicators; support for the natural and cultural heritage is eligible from several other sources, including cross-border program (Slovak - Polish, ENPI).
- Making **nature protection activities eligible from the Swiss financial mechanism and from the Norwegian financial mechanism.**
- Acceleration of **communication at both national level**, namely
 - written **inter-ministerial agreement between the MoE and the MoA** signed in February 2015 aimed at the fulfilment of obligations concerning the UNESCO convention and the European Diploma.

Based on the legislation changes, management plans (MP) for national parks started to be prepared, not only for NP Poloniny, but also for other national parks in Slovakia. The first MP after this important legislation change was MP for NP Slovenský raj, which was already approved by the government on 16.12.2015.

Draft of MP for NP Poloniny was prepared during 2015. Draft was discussed with local stakeholders during the preparation – land owners, compossessorates, municipalities, etc.

Due to the recent situation within the CoE (proposal for the withdrawal of ED) group of important local stakeholders signed petition to save the ED for NP Poloniny and postpone its withdrawal (copy of the petition in Slovak language is in annex 01a, as well as translation to English – annex 01b), this is the results of improvement of communication in the region with all involved entities.

After this important step, based on the experiences gathered, the first official draft of the management plan for NP Poloniny (prepared already before) was officially provided by State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic for adoption process.

First official step was pre-adoption of the draft by the ministry of environment – document was approved by the State Secretary and the Minister of Environment and they agreed to start the official process of adoption – letter signed 25.1.2016 (in Slovak language annex 02).

According to Slovak legislation, regional authority is obliged to start this process, thus SNC sent later on the letter with the request to start the process.

By the letter dated to 1.2.2016, Regional environmental authority in Prešov officially started the process of adoption by sending out the formal informative letter to all interested stakeholders, municipalities, organizations and other authorities, with the information about the process and with the draft of MP and invitation to the public hearing meeting (copy of letter in the annex 03).

Public hearing with all interested and invited stakeholders, institutions, authorities,... took place on 18.02.2016 in Snina. No important comments to change the MP were presented on the meeting, but the important discussion took place.

The process of commenting will continue and according to legislation there is time to mid-March to send comments and discuss their acceptance. Afterwards, the MP will be sent to MoE and to government for adoption. Also there is plan to organize the separate meeting with involved NGOs to discuss the MP.

Condition No. 2: Start work on devising a new blueprint for forestry and hunting management in the diploma-holding area, taking greater account of the biological imperatives dictated by its European significance, within one year of the renewal. The national authorities shall supply a strategic plan for the sustainable development of the woodland during the next period of validity of the diploma and inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made. This blueprint shall include revision of the current hunting allocation in the diploma-holding area, ensuring that the functional units each cover a surface area of 3 000 to 4 000 hectares, consistent with the biology of large herbivores.

Forest management:

The whole area of the Poloniny NP is protected by the 3rd level of protection according to Act No 543/2002 Coll., e.g. there are specific restrictions and regulations applied, including the forest management (see §§11-16 of the translated part of the Act No 543/2002 Coll. in the document 2⁵). According to the Act No 326/2005 Coll. on Forests clear cutting is exclusively eligible under specifically listed conditions, namely: in pine, poplar, willow and robinia forest stands; plantages for energetic purposes and in the process of forest reconstruction. Such forest does not occur in the Poloniny NP, e.g. clear cutting is not used in the territory.

Forests cover 90 % of the Poloniny NP; 64 % of this area is state-owned, 29 % is owned by compossessorates, 6 % is owned by private landowners and less than 1 % is owned by the church. Forestry is of high importance in the region, both from the point of view of employment and income.

Currently, from the 1.1.2016 **the Borsukov Vrch Nature Reserve was designaed as protected area by government** with the strictest (5th level) (see below at the Condition No. 3). After this designation, the concerned forests currently classified as commercial one will be reclassified as special purpose forests, in accordance with the § 14. 2 e) of the Act No. 326/2005 Coll. on Forests as amended, the process of classification change is under preparation.

Written inter-ministerial agreement between the MoE and the MoA was signed in February 2015 aimed at the fulfilment of obligations concerning the UNESCO convention and the European Diploma. One of the tasks is to establish inter-ministerial working group which works on regular basis taking decisions. Agreed on 6th October 2015, the interministerial group decided that forest management in NP Poloniny will be changed to ProSilva system on state owned forests stands (realization fo this decision is in preparation).

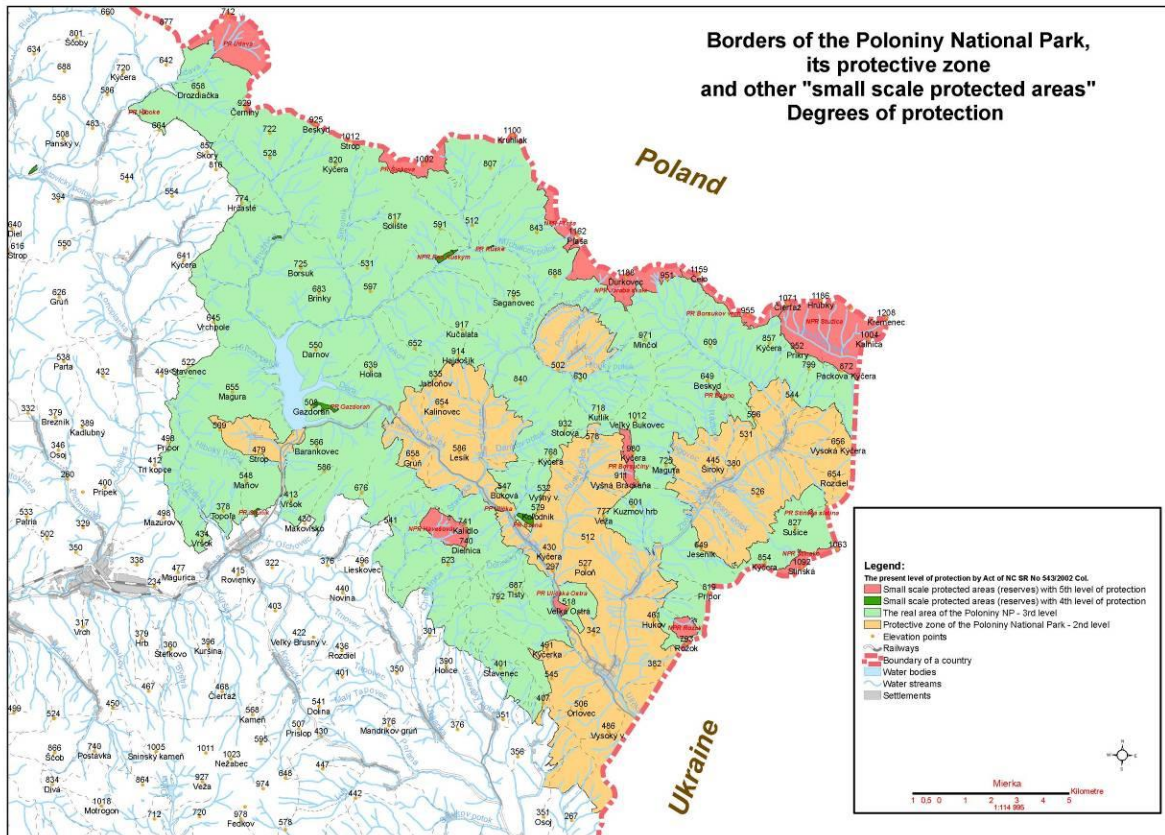
Condition No. 3: Create a functional network of protected areas during the next period of validity, meeting international standards in this area and complying with the national Law on Nature and Landscape Protection (notably sections 28 and 30).

As already mentioned the whole area of the Poloniny NP is protected by the 3rd level of protection according to the Act 543/2002 Coll. Nature reserves, national nature reserves and a nautre monument have 4th and 5th levels of protection.

Changed legal framework and improved communication with local stakehodlers led to the already mentioned designation of the Borsukov Vrch Nature Reserve (146,8 ha in the 5th level of protection), which was adopted by the governmentin December 2015.

More protected areas are planned to be designated which fulfil the required conditions for strictly protected areas. They are namely "Černiny" and "Pramenisko Cirochy" [Spring area of the Cirocha river] with proposed 5th level of protection. Whole territory along borders with Poland will be covered by strict nature reserves.

In December 2014 the SNC completed process of **evaluation of all 9 national parks and 14 protected landscape areas according to the IUCN criteria**. The Poloniny NP was classified in the cathegory V.



Condition No. 4: Pursue the steps taken to purchase private forests and draw up a future purchasing plan with specific objectives, indicating the funding to be assigned to this purpose each year.

Fulfilled – Due to mentioned legislation changes, the purchase of land from private owners is only one of the possibilities how to maintain suitable management of the area. Other instituted instruments to rearrange relations in the protected areas are lease, exchange of land, contractual measures and financial compensation. Allowance of these possibilities is important legislative preconditions to take control over management of land by state.

Private landowners prefer rental agreements and financial compensation prior to selling the land. Land, which will be rented will be fully managed by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak republic (e.g. NP Poloniny Administration).

The amendment of Act No. 543/2002 Coll. effective from 1st January 2014 has also brought the obligation to prepare the **list of lands eligible for land exchange, lease or purchase and contractual management** until 30th June each year (§ 61.3 – see in the already mentioned document 2). In accordance with the aforementioned provision, the SNC created such a list also for the territory of the Poloniny NP.

It is important to point out the experts of CoE during the appraisal mission, didn't discuss this Condition either with private owners neither with state authorities, that private owners are not willing to sell land and they are keen mostly to rental agreements.

Condition No. 5: Set up a scientific programme inventorying and monitoring the large carnivore populations in the diploma-holding area; the national authorities shall submit the scientific protocol for that programme for opinion to the Group of Specialists on the Diploma within one year of the renewal.

As specified in the previous annual reports, the SNC implements a **project aimed at large carnivores**. Study on ethology of the brown bear population in Slovakia, study on evaluation of the size of

the brown bear, study on healthy conditions of the brown bear population and study on complex identification of the population of large carnivores and a wild cat in Slovakia already resulted in preliminary quantity/quality data on above species.

There are 2 important issues concerning the **wolf: since 2014 it is fully protected species in the area** and **management plan at national level for wolf** is in the final stage of preparation. It is developed in coordination with the MoA, the National Forestry Centre, the Technical University in Zvolen, University of the Veterinary Medicine Košice and involved NGOs.

Similarly, **management plan for brown bear** is under development to complete already existing procedure – guidance for regulatory hunting brown bear. It is necessary to stress that this species has not been hunt for long period (no permission issued).

The SNC is also finalizing as a part of species management plan a **scientific protocol** as part of the scientific program aimed at large carnivore population inventory creation and monitoring, which shall contain information on the published scientific publications and documents along with proposed further measures of large carnivore monitoring within the territory of the Poloniny NP.

Species management plan is recently under the adoption process within the Ministry of environment of the SR.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution No (2012)19 contains 7 recommendations

Recommendation No. 1: Give the management of the diploma-holding area greater responsibility for forestry and hunting matters and involve it in the corresponding decision-making process

Division of the competencies for the management of protected areas among different ministries is model commonly used also in other countries which are members of the Council of Europe. Competencies of relevant ministries are based in the **Act No 575/2001 Coll. on Organization of the Government and Central State Administration Bodies** as amended.

Competencies with respect to the nature protection issues as well as forestry, hunting, fishing, etc. are divided to the administration bodies (ministries, district offices) and other institutions (such as the SNC). The Administration of the Poloniny NP is therefore only part of the relevant institutional framework. Along with the professional employees there is a network of voluntary guards – rangers (specifically for nature, forestry, hunting, fishing) appointed according to the respective legal acts (conditions, rights and responsibilities, training, period etc.). In the Poloniny NP there are 7 voluntary nature guards. According to the Act No 274/2009 Coll., there is an obligation of one person of the hunting guard for each 500 ha of the hunting district.

Responsibilities of the SNC (including its unit - the Poloniny NP Administration) have been significantly strengthened in the amendment to the Act No. 543/2002 Coll.. New rights and obligations have been introduced significantly improving the competence and powers of the organization. The most important one are listed in the § 65a of the Act No 543/2002 Coll. (e.g. signed loan agreements with the land-owners, comment the process of preparation of forestry management plans and providing data for their preparation).

According to changed legislation, renting of land is planned and discussed with stakeholders, what will result that SNC will manage this land within PAs (first contract on land purchase in history according to new legislation in NP Slovensky raj was signed 15.2.2016!). Such rented land will be managed by SNC.

In addition to this, **an inter-ministerial agreement between the MoE and the MoA** was signed in February 2015 aimed at the fulfilment of obligations concerning the UNESCO convention and the European Diploma (mentioned above).

Recommendation No. 2: Consider the signature of a simplified agreement between the bodies directly responsible for managing the protected areas on the borders of the three neighbouring countries (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine), based on the programming of joint activities;

Fulfilled – a trilateral agreement was concluded on 15th November 2013, as part of the Eastern Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. The Steering Council of this biosphere reserve also includes the administrations of the relevant national parks and protected landscape areas; these jointly manage and coordinate cross-border activities within the scope of the Steering Council in the annual meetings.

Within the management of trilateral international protected area of Natural World Heritage site in Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathian and Ancient Forests of Germany, the trilateral co-operation continued especially with interchange of information and experience at the **Joint Management Committee** session held on 14th May 2014 in Bonn, Germany. During this session, the representatives of the competent ministries of Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany signed the document the *Joint Declaration of Intent*. In this document, the participants expressed their will to provide mutual support and cooperation concerning the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the Joint World Heritage property to future generations.

Recommendation No. 3: pursue efforts to upgrade human resources, in particular by taking on more technical staff and wardens, and very substantially step up funding, at least doubling the annual ratio per hectare for the period of validity of the diploma.

The number of basic staff members increased from 12 persons in 2014 on 13 persons in 2015.

Institutional financing of the administration which was assessed by the expert are only the part of financial sources which the Poloniny NP Administration has in disposal. Large amount of money are secured and provided via projects, grants and contributions from the MoE, Environmental fund etc. directly to the SNC or to the local stakeholders based on their requests.

As part of the project already started and financed from Norwegian funds via the Government Office of the Slovak Republic since **September 2015 there are 4 new positions** within the SNC, including the Poloniny NP Administration. **Another seasonal work position was established** at the information Centre of the Poloniny NP in Nová Sedlica. This person provides information about the Poloniny NP to the public, the tourists and the visitors of the area in the main touristic season. Agenda of the Poloniny NP and its international commitments is tackled also by 2 experts implementing the Swiss project “Development of Nature Conservancy and Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians” (hereinafter “Swiss project”) as well as 2 coordinators of international cooperation. Agenda of all these employees is mostly aimed to the Poloniny NP region. In addition to this, multiple activities shall be implemented within the area, outsourced by the SNC. Other possibilities of employment of national park and its cooperating organizations is supported by the different projects (above mentioned Swiss and Norwegian Funds) where also excursions and visits in other countries took place to present possibilities of cooperation and support in the region.

As mentioned above there are **7 voluntary rangers**. Their activities are coordinated by the Poloniny NP Administration and District Office in Prešov and they are mainly oriented on enforcement of the legislation (in the field).

Beside mentioned project funds, there is a idea that by the adoption of MP in cooperation with stakeholders, will start generation of self-sustainable sources from soft tourism.

Recommendation No. 4: Give full protection to wolves and ban shooting them throughout the area of the national park.

Fulfilled – since 2014 wolf is fully protected species in the whole area of the Poloniny NP, its protective zone as well as in the adjacent Východné Karpaty Protected Landscape Area. This is result of amendment (and compliance) of both the nature protection and hunting legislation, namely the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No. 344/2009 Coll.

executing the Hunting Act as amended and the Order of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No 24/2003 Coll. implementing the Act No 543/2002 Coll. as amended. According to the official hunting statistic since 2013 no wolf was hunt in the Poloninské Karpaty Hunting Area.

Recommendation No. 5: Strongly consider the designation of a hunting district within the park as a strict cynegetic reserve.

As already mentioned under the Condition No 2 hunting was subject to intensive consultation among MoE, MoA (and their institutions) and the Slovak Hunting Chamber. At their meeting with the 2 main local stakeholders on August 21st, 2015 it was concluded that **hunting management is in compliance with national legislation** and that the **Statute of the Poloninské Karpaty Hunting Area** (lastly updated in 2010) will be amended to more consider objectives of the Poloniny NP and to apply experience from the Poľana Protecting Hunting Area. Updated draft will be submitted to the coming meeting of the hunting board, which is planned for April 2016.

Recommendation No. 6: Pursue the efforts to restore buildings in the traditional regional style; the park might devise a charter of architectural rules for local authorities.

Activities related to this recommendation undertaken by the municipalities, local companies and NGOs (tourist, culture and nature heritage) were supported from **Swiss project** mainly via small grant program. Similar support is planned also as part of the Norwegian project.

Excursion for relevant stakeholders was organized in October 2014 to the Switzerland to support the feeling of these responsible stakeholders how to promote their area and commonly support rural development. In 2015, the SNC motivated municipalities to increase their involvement in the **village renewal programme** (traditional instrument supported annually from the state budget). On 5th May 2015 a **seminar in the Poloniny NP was held to inform local stakeholders on the newly approved operational programs to use EU funds (2014-2020)**, namely the Rural Development Program, Environment Quality Operational Program, Poland - Slovakia Cross-Border Cooperation Program. This already resulted in submission of more application for financial support.

Recommendation No. 7: Start experimenting with the selective felling of beech forest in a state-owned woodland unit; the national authorities shall inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made.

As part of the Swiss project the SNC has commissioned the **"Creation of a Proposal of Forest Management Measures for the Buffer Zone of the Carpathian Beech Forests"** in the Poloniny NP.

The proposal of these **forest management measures** was prepared by the professional qualified person in August 2015. It is based on the valid forest management documentation (Directive No 1/2014 of the Slovak National Forest Centre - Forest management planning Institute entitled "Work Procedure for the Creation and Design of Multi-Stratum Vegetation Management Measures in Forest Management Plans"). The proposal consists of general proposals (made according to the age classes) and specific proposals for totally 9 forest units in the Poloniny NP. The proposal is aimed to contribute to the improvement of the state of forests, taking the conservancy of natural beech forests into account. It was the basis for negotiations with the forest-owners during the September 2015 on specific measures.

The proposal of these forest management measures was prepared and forestry management plans will be updated soon in the newly designated NR Borsukov vrch (recently these measures are under preparation – details mentioned above).

Road map to follow-up

- ▶ After the designation of new PA inside of NP Poloniny (Borsukov vrch), 2 more PA designation will follow
- ▶ Adoption of management plan for NP Poloniny – (as MP for NP S.raj was adopted by government in Dec 2015), the MP for Poloniny is planned to be adopted 04-05/2016 by the government

- ▶ Forest management – SNC and MoE will continue to support for non-state forest users by compensation and subsidising; state users adoption of ProSilva models
- ▶ Continuation of work of interministerial group to control adoption of agreed processes
- ▶ Coordination of management of the area together with the requirement of UNESCO

Summary

- ▶ The Slovak Republic considers the European Diploma as prestigious award and high priority;
- ▶ the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development undertook in 2014 – 2016 several steps to make a significant progress;
- ▶ Progress is based on the long-term measures.
- ▶ The improved cooperation and discussion with local stakeholders resulted in understanding of the nature values as well as local needs in the region and the willingness to cooperate on securing these values for future.
- ▶ The Slovak Republic proposes that Group of Experts reappraise Conditions and Recommendations
 - ▶ considers Cond.4 and 5 and Recomm. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as fulfilled
 - ▶ Asks SR to deliver Progress Report on Conds 1, 2, 3 and Recomms 6, 7 in December 2016 (simultaneous together with report to UNESCO WH)
- ▶ UNESCO WH committee welcomed the results reached by Slovakia and is expecting report by December 2016 (11 new countries will extend the WH property)
- ▶ Continuing to support for the community and NP through project from EU, Swiss, Norwegian funds

25th February 2016

Prepared by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Annex 1a - Petition

52: 58224/2015
571: 5984/2015-21

Výzva zástupcov miestnych samospráv a vlastníkov pozemkov v Národnom parku Poloniny Výboru ministrov Rady Európy „Odloženie rozhodnutia o predčasnom odobratí Diplomu Rady Európy pre Národný park Poloniny“

Rezolúciou číslo (98)26, zohľadňujúcou súhlasné stanovisko vlády SR udelil Výbor ministrov Rady Európy dňa 18. septembra 1998 pre Národný park Poloniny Diplom Rady Európy kategórie B za ochranu charakteru krajiny a prírodných fenoménov osobitnej estetickéj alebo kultúrnej hodnoty. Udelenie Diplomu Rady Európy bolo spojené s odporúčaniami, ktorých plnenie bolo hodnotené ako súčasť 5-ročnej revízie. Rezolúcie Výboru ministrov Rady Európy číslo (2003)2 z 28. mája 2003, číslo (2008)3 z 2. júla 2008 a číslo (2012)19 o obnovení (znovu-udelení) Diplomu Rady Európy pre Národný park Poloniny boli spojené s ďalšími podmienkami a odporúčaniami.

My, zástupcovia obyvateľov a neštátnych vlastníkov pozemkov vyjadrujeme nespokojnosť s nedostatočným zapojením verejnosti pri formulovaní podmienok a odporúčaní k Diplomu Rady Európy a rozhodnutí o ich realizácii v predošlých rokoch. Sme presvedčení, že viacročné problémy s plnením týchto podmienok a odporúčaní sú aj dôsledkom toho, že obyvatelia dotknutého regiónu neboli súčasťou procesu prijímania rozhodnutí a neboli rovnocenným partnerom štátnych orgánov, medzinárodných organizácií a expertov. V podobnom duchu sme sa vyjadrili aj v sťažnosti adresovanej Rade Európy v roku 2013 k hodnotiacej správe z misie experta RE v roku 2012.

Až po nástupe súčasného vedenia Ministerstva životného prostredia a po prijatí novely zákona o ochrane prírody a krajiny od 1. januára 2014 sme sa stali reálne akceptovaným partnerom pri prerokovávaní možností riešenia problémov ochrany a využívania prírody a krajiny v ktorej žijeme. Oceňujeme zmenu prístupu štátnych orgánov, aj aktivity zrealizované v rokoch 2014 a 2015, najmä možnosť zapojiť sa do prípravy programov starostlivosti o územie a do realizácie opatrení. Vitáme túto príležitosť, nakoľko je postavená na princípoch partnerstva a spolupráce. Preto sme deklarovali vôľu rokovať aj o zámere zmeny doterajšej ochrany prírodných lesov a pralesov, pri rešpektovaní primeranej kompenzácie za obmedzenia vlastníckych práv.

My, zástupcovia vlastníkov pozemkov a miestnych samospráv máme silný záujem o využitie potenciálu prírodných a kultúrnych hodnôt regiónu. Sme si vedomí, že prírodný potenciál nám dáva možnosť aj pre ekonomický a sociálny rozvoj územia. Tomu môže napomôcť aj odloženie rozhodnutia o odňatí Diplomu Rady Európy pre Národný park Poloniny, ktoré zachová záujem Vlády Slovenskej republiky doriešiť vzniknuté problémy aj v nasledujúcich rokoch. Uvedomujeme si, že doteraz vykonané opatrenia nie sú dostatočné a neodstránili všetky nedostatky. Máme však vôľu a záujem prispieť v rámci našich možností k riešeniu tejto situácie. Navrhujeme, aby výsledky spoločného úsilia vlastníkov a užívateľov pozemkov, štátnych orgánov a organizácií posúdila v roku 2017 hodnotiaca misia Rady Európy. Veríme, že pri vašom rozhodovaní zvážite možnosť odložiť rozhodnutie o predčasnom odobratí Diplomu RE pre Národný park Poloniny a rozhodnutie o jeho obnovení či neobnovení prijmete až v roku 2018, podľa výsledkov hodnotiacej misie v roku 2017. Bolo by to najvhodnejšie riešenie hlavne pre prírodu, ktorú chceme spoločne chrániť.

Paradové číslo podpisového hárku č.....

Podpisový hárkok

Svojím podpisom potvrdzujem, že súhlasím so žiadosťou Výboru ministrov Rady Európy, ktorá má názov:
 "Odloženie rozhodnutia o predčasnom odobratí Diplomu RE pre NP Poloniny"
 a súhlasím s tým, aby túto výzvu postúpil Rade Európy a vláde Slovenskej republiky zástupca Spoločenstva obcí
 mikroregiónu Uličská dolina.

	Meno a priezvisko, titul	Ulica, č. domu (adresa trvalého pobytu)	Mesto, PSČ (celým slovom)	Podpis
1.	JURAJ KOČO INE	STROJÁRSKA 3994	SNINA 06901	
2.	JAN ČORANIE	PERECINSKA 274	SNINA 06901	
3.	VIERA KULIKOVA, Mgr.	ČORADSKÁ 22	POVICE 04023	
4.	SILVIO MIROSLAV	1. MAJA 2055	SNINA 06901	
5.	FUNDAR MIROSLAV	UJATSKÉHO 2442	SNINA 06901	
6.	Ján Tempeš	Štefánikova 2049	06901 Snina	
7.	LUCIA KOČOVA, PhDr.	PRATYANSKA 3	PUHLENNE 06001	
8.	HĽIB LADISLAV	KURČINOVÁ 2044	SNINA, 06901	
9.	Marian Nemčičin, Mgr.	Komenského 2655	SNINA 06901	
10.	JAROSLAV HIEGA	PURKŠENOVÁ 2275	SNINA 06901	
11.	Štefan LENKA	1. MAJA	SNINA 06901	
12.	JAN BLISČAK	KOMENSKÉHO 2062/13	SNINA 06901	
13.	JOSEF BLISČAK	1. MAJA 2055/7	SNINA 06901	
14.	JOSEF BLISČAK HL.	1. MAJA 2055/7	SNINA 06901	
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Fyzická osoba svojím podpisom na tejto petícii, v súlade so zákonom č. 426/2002 Z.z. o ochrane osobných údajov platnom znení, udeľuje súhlas predkladateľovi výzvy na spracovanie poskytnutých osobných údajov výlučne na účely súvisiace s podaním výzvy.

Annex 1b – Petition in English

Local municipalities representatives and landowners within Poloniny National Park appeal to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

“Postponement of early withdrawal of European Diploma for Poloniny National Park”

The Committee of Ministers, taking into account the agreement of the Government of the Slovak Republic, awarded by the resolution No (98) 26, the European Diploma to the Poloniny National Park on 18th September 1998. The Diploma was awarded in the category B, aimed at the protection of landscapes or natural features of particular aesthetic or cultural value or of an imposing nature. The awarding of the Poloniny National park by the European Diploma was accompanied with certain recommendations. Evaluation of their fulfilment was a part of a five-year review. The resolutions of the Committee of Ministers No (2003)2 dated 28nd May 2003, No (2008)3 dated 2nd July 2008 and No (2012)19 on renewal (re-awarding) of the European Diploma to the Poloniny National Park were accompanied with further conditions and recommendations.

From the position of residents' and non- state landowners' representatives, we take this opportunity to express dissatisfaction with the lack of public involvement in formulating conditions and recommendations related to the European Diploma and decisions on compliance taken during previous years. We are convinced that multiannual problems related to fulfilment of the above mentioned conditions and recommendations are a consequence of non-involvement of local residents in decision-making processes as well as not considering local stake-holders as partners equal to state authorities, international organisations and experts. This opinion was also expressed in the complaint addressed to the European Council in 2013 regarding the evaluation report of the Expert Mission in Poloniny National Park 2012.

Only after the formation of the current leadership of the Ministry of Environment and after the amendments to the Nature and Landscape Protection Act, which is in force since 1st January 2014, we have been accepted as a partner of equal value in the discussions of options to address the issues of protection and use of nature and landscape we live in. We appreciate the change of state authorities' approach, as well as activities implemented during 2014 and 2015, especially the opportunity to participate in management plan preparation and measures implementation. We welcomed this opportunity as it is based on principles of partnership and cooperation. Therefore we declared the will to discuss a proposal on changes in current protection of natural forests and primeval forests, while respecting fair compensation for the restriction of property rights.

It is in our strong interest, as residents' and non- state landowners' representatives, to utilise the potential of natural and cultural values of the region. We are aware that natural potential provides an opportunity for economic and social development of the region. This can be helped by postponement of early withdrawal of European Diploma for Poloniny National Park, of which existence maintains the interest of the Slovak Government to solve the issues in the coming years. We are aware that the measures taken so far are not sufficient and they did not provide enough space to remedy all the shortages. However, there is a will and interest

to contribute to resolving of this situation within our means. Our proposal is that the results of joint efforts of owners and land users, state authorities and organisations are reviewed in 2017 by evaluation mission of the European Council. We believe that you would consider the possibility to postpone the early withdrawal of European Diploma for Poloniny National Park in your decision and that you would take final decision on its renewal or withdrawal in 2018, based on the results of the 2017 mission. We consider this to be the most suitable solution for the nature which we jointly wish to protect.

The Signature Sheet

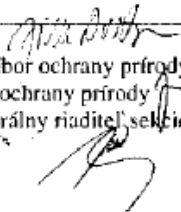

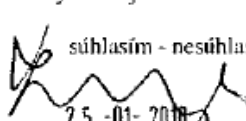
I, the undersigned, do hereby confirm that I agree with the appeal to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, called **“Postponement of early withdrawal of European Diploma for Poloniny National Park”** and I agree that this appeal is forwarded to the Council of Europe and to the Slovak Government by the representative of Spoločenstvo obcí mikroregiónu Uličská dolina (Community of Municipalities of Ulicska dolina valley).

Annex 2 –Agreement from the Minister

Príloha č.7 k smernici Ministerstva Životného prostredia Slovenskej republiky z 12. novembra 2013 č. I/2013-1.6.



MINISTERSTVO ŽIVOTNÉHO PROSTREDIA SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY

Informácia pre ministra životného prostredia Slovenskej republiky	
Dátum: 18. 01. 2016 Evidenčné číslo: 3305/2016-2.1 <i>AGSR/SDIC</i>	Vypracovala: RNDr. Jana Durkošová, odbor ochrany prírody Schválil: Ing. Ján Julény, riaditeľ odboru ochrany prírody Predkladá: Mgr. Rastislav Rybanič, generálny riaditeľ sekcie ochrany prírody a tvorby krajiny 
VEC: Návrh programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny a jeho ochranné pásmo – informácia a žiadosť o súhlas s prerokovaním návrhu	
Vyjadrenie štátneho tajomníka: súhlasím - nesúhlasím 	
Vyjadrenie ministra: 1. S predložením návrhu programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny a jeho ochranné pásmo na prerokovanie s dotknutými subjektmi. 2. Iné inštrukcie. súhlasím - nesúhlasím  25.01.2016	

Obsah informácie:

Vážený pán minister,

prijatie programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny je jednou zo zásadných podmienok pre udržanie Európskeho diplomu Rady Európy. V záujme splnenia tohto medzinárodného záväzku, ako aj súlade s úlohou č. 166/B.1, prijatou na 27. Porade vedenia Ministerstva životného prostredia Slovenskej republiky (ďalej len „Porada vedenia“), si Vás dovoľujem informovať, že Štátna ochrana prírody Slovenskej republiky dopracovala odborný návrh programu starostlivosti.

Návrh programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny a jeho ochranné pásmo je dokumentáciou ochrany prírody podľa § 54 ods. 5 zákona č. 543/2002 Z. z. o ochrane prírody a krajiny v znení neskorších predpisov, ktorú schvaľuje vláda Slovenskej republiky. Z časových dôvodov si Vás dovoľujeme požiadať o súhlas oznámiť a prerokovať návrh tohto dokumentu so známymi vlastníkmi, správcami a nájomcami pozemkov, dotknutými obcami a dotknutými orgánmi štátnej správy pred jeho predložením do Porady vedenia. Do Porady vedenia bude materiál predložený po jeho prerokovaní, už ako návrh materiálu na rokovanie vlády Slovenskej republiky.

Po Vašom súhlase sekcia ochrany prírody a tvorby krajiny listom požiada Okresný úrad Prešov (ktorý je podľa § 54 ods. 20 citovaného zákona príslušný na prerokovanie pripomienok) o oznámenie návrhu programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny a jeho ochranné pásmo.

V prílohe si dovoľujeme priložiť znenie úlohy č. 166/B.1, z ktorej vyplýva povinnosť predložiť materiál (vo formáte na rokovanie vlády) do 29.02.2016 na odsúhlasenie.

Annex 3 – Letter to the municipalities and stakeholders**OKRESNÝ ÚRAD PREŠOV****odbor starostlivosti o životné prostredie**

oddelenie ochrany prírody a vybraných zložiek životného prostredia kraja

Námestie mieru 2, 081 92 Prešov

Rozdeľovník

Váš list číslo/zo dňa
- / -Naše číslo
č.s.:OU-PO-OSZP1-2016/008830-3/KMVybavuje/linka
Ing. Kepič M.
(051) 4881 220Prešov
01. 02. 2016

Vec

Oznámenie o prerokovaní návrhu „Programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny na obdobie r. 2017 – 2026“ a o možnosti podať pripomienky k tomuto návrhu

Okresný úrad Prešov, odbor starostlivosti o životné prostredie, oddelenie ochrany prírody a vybraných zložiek životného prostredia kraja (*d ďalej len „okresný úrad v sídle kraja“*) ako príslušný orgán štátnej správy vo veciach ochrany prírody a krajiny podľa § 4 ods. 1 zákona č. 525/2003 Z.z. o štátnej správe starostlivosti o životné prostredie a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v spojení s § 64 ods. 1 písm. c) zákona č. 543/2002 Z.z. o ochrane prírody a krajiny v znení neskorších predpisov (*d ďalej len „zákon OPaK“*) a § 54 ods. 20 zákona OPaK týmto

o z n a m u j e,

že dňa 18. februára 2016 o 10,00 hod sa uskutoční v budove Združenia vysídlelcov z oblasti vodárenskej nádrže Starina, Strojárska 2526, 069 01 Snina

verejné prerokovanie návrhu „Programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny na obdobie r. 2017 - 2026“ s vlastníkmi, správcami a nájomcami dotknutých pozemkov, dotknutými obcami a dotknutými orgánmi štátnej správy.

Návrh „Programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny na obdobie r. 2017 - 2026“, ktorého vypracovanie obstaralo Ministerstvo životného prostredia Slovenskej republiky, sekcia ochrany prírody a tvorby krajiny, Námestie L. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava (*d ďalej len „ministerstvo“*) ako príslušný orgán ochrany prírody a krajiny podľa § 65 ods. 1 písm. c) bod 2 zákona OPaK, bol *okresnému úradu v sídle kraja* doručený prostredníctvom ministerstvom poverenej organizácie Štátnej ochrany prírody Slovenskej republiky, Tajovského 28B, 974 01 Banská Bystrica, ktorá je spracovateľom predmetného programu starostlivosti. Podľa § 54 ods. 20 zákona OPaK program starostlivosti o národný park schvaľuje vláda Slovenskej republiky.

Návrh „Programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny na obdobie r. 2017 - 2026“ je spracovaný ako základná dokumentácia starostlivosti o národný park a jeho ochranné pásmo (*d ďalej len „program starostlivosti“*), v ktorej sú predovšetkým uvedené ciele starostlivosti o národný park a jeho ochranné pásmo a opatrenia na ich dosiahnutie pre vymedzené ekologicko-funkčné priestory (jednotky priestorového členenia územia s

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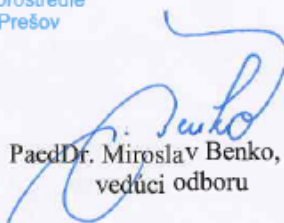
rovnakým spôsobom starostlivosti). *Program starostlivosti* obsahuje aj zásady a regulatívy využívania územia vo vzťahu k jednotlivým odvetviám ľudskej činnosti.

Návrh *programu starostlivosti* bol vypracovaný pre územie Národného parku Poloniny o výmere 29 805,0514 ha a jeho ochranného pásma o výmere 10 973, 2893 ha. Národný park Poloniny a jeho ochranné pásmo boli vyhlásené nariadením vlády Slovenskej republiky č. 258/1997 Z.z., ktorým sa vyhlasuje Národný park Poloniny. *Programom starostlivosti* sú dotknuté tieto obce na území národného parku: Hostovice, Kalná Roztoka, Klenová, Kolbasov, Nová Sedlica, Osadné, Parihuzovce, Pčoliné, Príslop, Runina, Ruská Volová, Ruský Potok, Stakčín (katastrálne územia: Stakčín, Dara, Ostrožnica, Ruské, Zvala, Starina, Smolník, Veľká Poľana), Stakčinská Roztoka, Topoľa, Ulič, Uličské Krivé a Zboj a tieto obce na území ochranného pásma národného parku: Stakčín (katastrálne územia: Stakčín, Dara, Starina nad Cirochou), Jalová, Príslop, Kolbasov, Topoľa, Runina, Ruský Potok, Ulič, Ubľa, Brezovec, Uličské Krivé, Zboj a Nová Sedlica.

Do návrhu „*Programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny na obdobie r. 2017 - 2026*“ je možné nahliadnuť na Okresnom úrade Prešov, odbore starostlivosti o životné prostredie, Námestie mieru č. 2, 081 92 Prešov, na Okresnom úrade Snina, odbore starostlivosti o životné prostredie, Partizánska 1057, 069 01 Snina, na Štátnej ochrane prírody Slovenskej republiky – Správe Národného parku Poloniny, ul. Mieru č. 193, 067 61 Stakčín, na obecných úradoch dotknutých obcí alebo je možné si ho stiahnuť na webovej stránke <http://www.sopsr.sk/psnppo/>.

V rámci procesu prerokovania návrhu „*Programu starostlivosti o Národný park Poloniny na obdobie r. 2017 - 2026*“ je možné podať písomné pripomienky k návrhu na Okresný úrad Prešov, odbor starostlivosti o životné prostredie, Námestie mieru č. 2, 081 92 Prešov alebo elektronicky na oszp.po@minv.sk v lehote 30 dní odo dňa doručenia tohto oznámenia.

Okresný úrad Prešov
odbor starostlivosti o životné prostredie
Námestie mieru 2, 081 92 Prešov
- 2 -


PaedDr. Miroslav Benko, MBA
vedúci odboru

Doručí sa

1. PS Geborová Nová Sedlica, Nová Sedlica 16, 067 68 Zboj, MVDr. Michal Rusič
2. PS urbárska spoločnosť Ulič, Ulič 247, 067 67 Ulič, Martin Makarovič
3. Grécko-katolícke arcibiskupstvo Prešov, Hlavná 1, 080 01 Prešov
4. Súkromné lesy Kredba a Mudroch s. r. o., Kukorelliho 1505/50, 066 01 Humenné
5. Lesopoľnohospodárska urbárska spoločnosť - PS Runina, Komenského 2659, 069 01 Snina, Zdeno Todák
6. Pozemkové spoločenstvo Príslop, Nová Sedlica 88, 067 68 Zboj, Pavol Šebák
7. Pozemkové spoločenstvo Dara, Pugačevova 2275/13, 069 01 Snina, Jaroslav Hírča
8. Lesopoľnohospodárske urbárske PS Starina, Starinská 2252/1, 066 01 Humenné, Fedor Kost'un
9. Lesopoľnohospodárska urbárska spoločnosť PS Smolník, Gorkého 2242, 069 01 Snina, Juraj Kučala

10. Lesopol'nohospodárske a urbárske PS Ruské, Študentská 2047, 069 01 Snina, Ján Lempel'
11. UaPZ PS Veľká Poľana, Starinská 2291, 069 01 Snina, Ján Čerevka
12. Lesopol'nohospodárska urbárska spoločnosť PS Zvala, Ševčenkova 622/3, 067 61 Stakčín
13. Pasienkové urbárske PS Ostrožnica, Partizánska 1835/27, 069 01 Snina, Zdenko Fečík
14. PS Nastas Stakčinská Roztoka, Stakčinská Roztoka 52, 067 61 Stakčín, Štefan Červeňák
15. Urbárske pasienkové a lesné PS Kalná Roztoka, Kalná Roztoka 160, 067 72 Klenová, Zdenko Kiselovič
16. Urbárska spoločnosť – PS Ruská Volová, Československej armády 700, 067 61 Stakčín
17. Urbárska a súkromná spol. Solomon Stanko a spol. – PS, Komenského 2661/11, 069 01 Snina
18. US Ubľa, Ubľa 247, 067 73 Ubľa
19. LPUPS Snina, Rastislavova 1138, 069 01 Snina, Ladislav Koval'
20. Urbárska spoločnosť – PS Parihuzovce, Komenského 2661/11, 069 01 Snina, Marek Míka
21. PS vlastníkov urbárskeho lesa a pasienkov Osadné, Osadné 14, 067 34 p. Nižná Jablonka
22. Urbárska spoločnosť – PS Pčoliné, Pčoliné 248, 067 35 Pčoliné
23. Urbárska lesná spoločnosť – PS v Kolbasove, č. d. 18, 067 33 Papín, Stanislav Janko
24. PS Kyčerka, Nová Sedlica 81, 067 68 Zboj, Ján Lešanič
25. PS Rožok Uličské Krivé, Uličské Krivé č. 49, 067 67 Ulič, Ing. Juraj Cogan
26. Ing. Miroslava Kruľová, 1. mája 2056/8, 069 01 Snina
27. Lesopol'nohospodársky majetok Ulič, š. p., č. d. 96, 067 67 Ulič
28. LESY SR, š.p., Nám. SNP 8, 975 66 Banská Bystrica
29. LESY SR, š.p., OZ Vranov, Čemernianska 136, 093 03 Vranov nad Topľou
30. LESY SR, š.p., OZ Sobrance, Kúpeľská 69, 073 01 Sobrance
31. SLOVENSKÝ VODOHOSPODÁRSKY PODNIK, š.p., Banská Štiavnica, OZ Košice, Ďumbierska 14, 041 59 Košice I
32. AGRIFOP, a.s. Stakčín, Duchnovičova 573/18, 067 61 Stakčín
33. ARATTA, spol. s r.o., Duchnovičova 573/18, 067 61 Stakčín
34. AGROTEL Nová Sedlica, s.r.o., Zátoky 596, 067 82 Dlhé nad Cirochou
35. ROTAX-ARCH spol. s r.o. Fidlíkova 3, 066 01 Humenné
36. PO Lovec, Železničná 795/36, 067 83 Kamenica nad Cirochou
37. Poľovné združenie Javorník Ulič, č.d. 3, 067 67 Ulič, Ing. Marián Čabin
38. Poľovné združenie Beskyd Zboj, č.d. 48, 067 68 Zboj,
39. Polonina s.r.o., ul. Kpt. Nálepku 102, 069 01 Snina
40. PZ Orol Stakčín, 1. mája 2055/7, 069 01 Snina
41. PZ Osoj Osadné, Osloboditeľov 18, 066 01 Humenné, Miroslav Leník
42. PS Vihorlat Snina, Jesenského 1656/20, 069 01 Snina, JUDr. Dušan Vološin
43. PZ Laz Hostovice, Košická 35, 066 01 Humenné, Slavomír Orenič
44. PS Pavlovec, č.d. 82, 067 35 Pčolinné, Andrej Latta
45. PZ Jeleň Veľká Poľana, ul. 25. novembra 2294, 069 01 Snina, Ing. Matej Hrivňák
46. PS Karcaba, Príslop 46, 067 66 Klobasov, Rudolf Šebák
47. PZ Pľaša Ruské, Strojárska 3994/91B, 069 01 Snina, Ing. Juraj Koco
48. PS Gazdoraň Starina, Domašská 66, 080 06 Ľubotice, Mgr. Ján Buša
49. PZ Zubor Zvala-Smolník, ul. Jána Bottu 197/57, 069 01 Snina, Ing. Konštantín Ferčák
50. PZ Vysina Ruská Volová, ul. Československej armády 700, 067 61 Stakčín, JUDr. Andrej Hodovanec
51. Slovenský rybársky zväz – Rada Žilina, ul. Andreja Kmeťa 20, 010 55 Žilina
52. Obec Brezovec, Brezovec 13, 067 73 Ubľa
53. Obec Hostovice, Hostovice 171, 067 35 p. Pčoliné
54. Obec Jalová, Jalová 38, 067 61 p. Stakčín
55. Obec Kalná Roztoka, Kalná Roztoka 199, 067 72 p. Klenová
56. Obec Klenová, Klenová 126, 067 72 Klenová
57. Obec Kolbasov, Kolbasov 26, 067 66 Kolbasov
58. Obec Nová Sedlica, Nová Sedlica 23, 067 68 p. Zboj
59. Obec Osadné, Osadné 100, 067 34 p. Nižná Jablonka
60. Obec Parihuzovce, Parihuzovce 46, 067 35 p. Pčoliné
61. Obec Pčoliné, Pčoliné 121, 067 35 Pčoliné

62. Obec Príslop, Príslop 41, 067 66 p. Kolbasov
63. Obec Runina, Runina 54, 067 65 p. Topoľa
64. Obec Ruská Volová, Ruská Volová 89, 067 72 p. Klenová
65. Obec Ruský Potok, Ruský Potok 5, 067 66 p. Kolbasov
66. Obec Stakčín, SNP 574/6, 067 61 Stakčín
67. Obec Stakčínska Roztoka, Stakčínska Roztoka 21, 067 61 p. Stakčín
68. Obec Topoľa, Topoľa 95, 067 65 Topoľa
69. Obec Ubl'a, Ubl'a 368, 067 73 Ubl'a
70. Obec Ulič, Ulič 89, 067 67 Ulič
71. Obec Uličské Krivé, Uličské Krivé 45, 067 67 p. Ulič
72. Obec Zboj, Zboj 98, 067 68 Zboj
73. Okresný úrad Snina, odbor starostlivosti o životné prostredie, Partizánska 1057, 069 01 Snina
 - úsek štátnej vodnej správy
 - úsek odpadového hospodárstva
74. Okresný úrad Prešov, odbor starostlivosti o životné prostredie, oddelenie štátnej správy vôd a vybraných zložiek životného prostredia kraja, Námestie mieru č. 2, 081 92 Prešov
75. Okresný úrad Humenné, pozemkový a lesný odbor, Mierová 4, 066 01 Humenné
 - úsek lesný
 - úsek pozemkový
76. Okresný úrad Prešov, odbor opravných prostriedkov, Námestie mieru č. 3, 080 01 Prešov
 - úsek lesný
 - úsek pozemkový
77. Krajský pamiatkový úrad Prešov, Hlavná 115, 080 01 Prešov
78. Ministerstvo vnútra SR, odbor správy štátnych hraníc, Pribinova 2, 812 72 Bratislava
79. Riaditeľstvo hraničnej a cudzineckej polície Sobrance, Štefánikova 10, 073 01 Sobrance
80. Prešovský samosprávny kraj, Námestie mieru č. 2, 080 01 Prešov

Na vedomie

1. Okresný úrad Snina, odbor starostlivosti o životné prostredie, Partizánska 1057, 069 01 Snina
2. Ministerstvo životného prostredia SR, sekcia ochrany prírody a tvorby krajiny, Námestie L. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava
3. ŠOP SR Banská Bystrica, Tajovského 28B, 974 01 Banská Bystrica
4. ŠOP SR, Správa Národného parku Poloniny, ul. Mieru 193, 067 61 Stakčín