

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017¹

“DOBROČSKÝ PRALES”

PRIMEVAL FOREST

State: **Slovak Republic**

Name of the area: **Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve**

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 for the Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve (Slovakia) adopted at the 1146 meeting of the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012, valid by 18 September 2018 /hereafter “Resolution (No 2012)11”²

Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, division of nature protection and landscape development

Address: Nám. Ľ.Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-2-59 56 22 11

Fax: +421-2-59 56 24 77

e-mail: jana.durkosova@enviro.gov.sk (contact person)

www: <http://www.enviro.gov.sk>

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Address: Tajovského 28B , 974 01 Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-48-472 20 26

Fax: +421-48-472 20 36

e-mail: secretariat@sopsr.sk

www: <http://www.sopsr.sk>

1. Conditions

The following condition is determined by the resolution CM/ResDip(2012)11:

- **Pursue the process of transforming anthropogenic forests into semi-natural forests, mainly in the buffer zone of the Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve, in compliance with the management plan.**

Process of transforming anthropogenic forest in the buffer zone (B zone) of the Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve (“Dobročský prales NNR”) - continued in the reporting period by preferential calamity wood processing: wind calamity in a volume of 404 m³, bark beetle calamity in a volume of 694 m³. Other interventions in this area have not been implemented. In May 2017, rehabilitation interventions in a volume of 700 m³ was marked in a part of the buffer zone. The aim was to differentiate the forests structure, release the place for natural regeneration of beech and to prevent a significant spread of bark beetle calamity.

In the surrounding forest stands, outside of the protected area, prescribed rehabilitation and educational interventions were carried out in accordance with the valid Forest Management Plan (prepared and approved for the years 2016-2025 for forest unit “Dobroč”) as well as the necessary sanitation measures under the current status of the forest stands with an occurrence of the bark beetle calamity and other types of calamity.

¹ Reported period 1st September 2016 – 31th August 2017

² Originally resolution No (2003)6 and resolution No (2008) 19, respectively

2. Recommendations

Two recommendations have been set up by the Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)11:

1. Promote awareness-raising activities, mainly:

- *updating the exhibition on the Dobročský prales NNR in the Pred Skalickou cottage;*
- *in co-operation with the forestry authorities, installing the information point on the Dobročský prales NNR in the Forestry Museum in the Vydrovská valley, near Čierny Balog (village).*

With respect to the first part of the recommendation the exhibition in the Pred Skalickou cottage was supplemented by the lacking publications and promotional materials made in last years in Slovak and English version: a video film about the Dobročský prales NNR and folded information leaflets in Slovak and also English language. The cottage was subject of standard technical maintenance. The surroundings of the building are regularly maintained.

With respect to the second part of the recommendation there was carried out the routine maintenance of the "torso of the Dobročská jedľa" and closed installed information points in the open air forestry museum. The points inform visitors about the largest silver fir (*Abies alba*) in the primeval forest called "Dobročská jedľa" and give basic information on the Dobročský prales NNR.

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic ensured by interest distributing of the newest information leaflets about the Dobročský prales NNR in A3 and the production of a video film "Dobročský prales – Chrám prírody" (Dobročský prales Primeval forest – Nature Cathedral), which were funded from the Swiss-Slovak cooperation program (Swiss financial mechanism - Development of nature conservation and protected areas in the Slovak Carpathians). Both promotional materials are in Slovak and English versions.

The basic information about the Dobročský prales NNR is available to visitors in the open air forestry museum in the valley "Vydrovská dolina" in its information centre at the start of the educational trail "Chodník lesného času", at a stop by the torso of the "Dobroč fir" and also on websites of relevant organizations³. The following information panels were added to the forestry open-air museum: "Trees and allergens" and "Rakes". The current number of stops of the educational trail " Chodník lesného času " is 86.

The tree day with a visit of 15 000 people was organized in the forestry open-air museum on 8 July 2017. The event was also attended by the Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic Ing. Gabriela Matečná and Head of the Office of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic Ing. Jaroslav Regec.

On 21 April 2017 on the occasion of the upcoming Earth Day the employees of State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Administration of the BR Poľana Protected Landscape Area participated in organization of events at the square SNP in Zvolen and in the Forestry Museum in the Vydrovská valley, near village Čierny Balog. At both events "Dobročský

³ <http://www.chkopolana.eu/news/narodna-prirodna-rezervacia-dobroccky-prales/>; [http://www.lesy.sk/showdoc.do?docid=2693](http://www.lesy.sk/showdoc.do?docid=2693;); <http://www.pralesy.sk/>; <http://www.ciernybalog.sk/dobroccky-prales.phtml?id3=83412>; <http://vydra.sk/>; <http://www.huculskamagistrala.sk/externe/klaster/home.nsf/page/0be66ae90b0a7bd4c1257baa002a74d9?OpenDocument>; http://www.enviromagazin.sk/enviro2013/enviro3/22_ste.pdf; <http://slovakia.travel/dobroccky-prales>; <http://horehronie.sk/sk/atrakcie/prirodne-zaujímavosti/dobroccky-prales/>; <http://www.muranskaplantina.com/zaujímavosti-uzemia/priroda/npr-dobroccky-prales/>

prales" was presented as a gem of Slovak nature. Children could participate in a drawing competition with the theme: "My idea of the forest."

Distribution of the information leaflets about the Dobročský prales NNR is carried out by the civic association Vydra, the Forests of the Slovak Republic, state enterprise - Čierny Balog forest administration, the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and Administration of the BR Poľana Protected Landscape Area.

2. Implement other activities listed in the management plan, particularly research and monitoring.

Monitoring of the status of the territory does not indicate any significant changes in comparison with the previous period.

Monitoring the number of visitors indicates a slight growth.

The occurrence of invasive alien plants has not been recorded.

The results of mushroom research with emphasis on several indicative species of native and undisturbed forests (doc., Vladimír Kunca, PhD., Technical University in Zvolen, 2014) have not yet been published.

The results of occurrence of fungi research including those of typical native and undisturbed forest (doc. Ing. Vladimír Kunca, Phd., Technical University in Zvolen, 2014) have not been published yet.

Research results identified as part of the "Cryptogam symposium on natural beech firests in Slovakia, 2011" organized by the Institute of Botany Slovak Academy of Sciences, were published in 2016 in the scientific publication about the diversity of wood-inhabiting fungi and lichens.

In the reporting period Faculty of Forestry of the Technical University in Zvolen (prof. Ing. Milan Saniga, DrSc.) carried out research "Structural diversity, disturbance regime and successive developments of selected beech and mixed forests and research on the conservation of common yew (*Taxus baccata* L.) in beech ecosystems of Slovakia". The results of the research have not been published yet. The publication of the results is expected in 2019.

The maintenance of the information objects was ensured by the area manager (The Forests of the Slovak Republic, state enterprise - Čierny Balog forest administration) and Administration of the BR Poľana Protected Landscape Area.

3. Local management

In Zone A (the core zone) of the "Dobročský prales" National Nature Reserve, which is a fragment of the original ecosystem of the Carpathian natural forest, only natural processes characteristic for climax forest stage are still ongoing.

³ <http://www.chkopolana.eu/news/narodna-prirodna-rezervacia-dobroccky-prales/>; [http://www.lesy.sk/showdoc.do?docid=2693](http://www.lesy.sk/showdoc.do?docid=2693;); <http://www.pralesy.sk/>; <http://www.ciernybalog.sk/dobroccky-prales.phtml?id3=83412>; <http://vydra.sk/>; <http://www.huculskamagistrala.sk/externe/klaster/home.nsf/page/0be66ae90b0a7bd4c1257baa002a74d9?OpenDocument>; http://www.enviromagazin.sk/enviro2013/enviro3/22_ste.pdf; <http://slovakia.travel/dobroccky-prales>; <http://horehronie.sk/sk/atrakcie/prirodne-zaujímavosti/dobroccky-prales/>; <http://www.muranskaplana.com/zaujímavosti-uzemia/priroda/npr-dobroccky-prales/>

Forest manager and administrator of the territory the “Forests of the Slovak Republic, state enterprise - Čierny Balog forest administration” did not notice any intentional anthropic interference in reported period. In Zone A they do not register any calamity, although recently observed dieback of spruce due to bark beetles attack also in younger age classes, but this is considered to a natural development. Mentioned facts confirm that in primeval forest communities occur natural processes and this part of protected area could be evaluated as a highly stable and condition of habitats favourable.

Managing interventions in Zone B (buffer zone – forests altered with forestry activities) were focused on calamity wood processing: wind calamity in a volume of 404 m³, bark beetle calamity in a volume of 694 m³ in the reported period. Any other intentional interventions in this part of NNR have not been implemented.

In surrounding forests outside protected areas were carried prescribed renewal and educative interventions under the valid Forest Management Plan for forest unit “Dobroč”. It was prepared in cooperation with the Administration of the Poľana Protected Landscape Area and approved for the years 2016-2025. Planned forestry interventions in Zone A (fifth level of protection) remain fully respecting the mode "without intervention". In zone B (fourth level of protection) were proposed measures in order as far as possible reduce the effects of anthropogenic activities from the surrounding commercial forests to Zone A, to ensure the smooth functioning of the climax ecosystems stages, to increase gradually the ecological stability of forests (especially in parts of higher representation of non-original habitat of spruce). These functions will be provided by the gradual modification of tree species composition in favor of habitats suitable tree species, encouraging natural regeneration, keeping dead woody biomass, the support of deciduous trees and fir. In parts with favorable structure will not be conducted any interventions. Such proposed management enables the differentiation of vegetation and creates conditions for a gradual return to the functioning of natural processes.

4. Borders

During the reporting period there were no changes in borders of the Dobročský prales NNR.

³ <http://www.chkopolana.eu/news/narodna-prirodna-rezervacia-dobrotsky-prales/>; <http://www.lesy.sk/showdoc.do?docid=2693;.www.pralesy.sk>; <http://www.ciernybalog.sk/dobrotsky-prales.phtml?id3=83412>; <http://vydra.sk/>; <http://www.huculskamagistrala.sk/externe/klaster/home.nsf/page/0be66ae90b0a7bd4c1257baa002a74d9?OpenDocument>; http://www.enviromagazin.sk/enviro2013/enviro3/22_ste.pdf; <http://slovakia.travel/dobrotsky-prales>; <http://horehronie.sk/sk/atrakcie/prirodne-zaujímavosti/dobrotsky-prales/>; <http://www.muranskaplana.com/zaujímavosti-uzemia/priroda/npr-dobrotsky-prales/>

5. More details

The Dobročský prales NNR has officially visited 5 excursions with a total of 169 experts and visitors. The Forests of the Slovak Republic, state enterprise - Čierny Balog forest administration ensured a visit for 3 groups with a total of 59 experts. Department of Silviculture at the Faculty of Forestry of the Technical University in Zvolen did not perform any excursion in the period under review. The Administration of the BR Poľana Protected Landscape Area separately provided 2 excursions for 60 pupils of Hrnčiariska Elementary School, Zvolen and 50 employees of Dunaj-Ipoly NP.

The civic association VYDRA - rural development activity of 8 groups (together 271 visitors) was accompanying the protected area of the Dobročský prales NNR. The groups was created their primary and secondary school pupils. The tour was also attended by 131 individual visitors.

In addition to these guided excursions to the Dobročský prales NNR, an excursion for participants of the „Vydrovský“ Summer Camp was organized in 30 children and 3 adults. The excursion was over the border of the forest and was very instructive to the children, bringing them a new perspective on nature conservation, forest development and a comparison of human history with the life of trees (preserved buildings: pyramids, castles, blocks etc.)

The highest visit rate was in the months of May to August 2017.

From 6 to 8 June 2017, Slovakia, and in particular, the Council of Europe expert Robert Brunner, visited Dobročský prales NNR. Representatives of the Council of Europe's Independent Expert Assessment Mission were representatives of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, the Forests of the Slovak Republic, state enterprise - Čierny Balog forest administration, the Science and Research Institutions, as well as representatives of the self-government and civic associations Vydra and Prales. "Cooperation between nature conservation, forestry, self-government, scientists and non-governmental organizations is excellent and should be an example for other areas of Slovakia. It will also help to achieve the results of nature conservation not only in the Dobročský prales, but also in the whole region," said EU Council expert Robert Brunner. The evaluation mission consisted of an informative meeting at the headquarters of the Administration of the BR Poľana Protected Landscape Area and a discussion with representatives of the scientific sphere at the Technical University of Zvolen and, in particular, visits to the Dobročský prales NNR and Baďínsky prales NNR itself, representing another type of forest located in the territorial scope of the BR Poľana Protected Landscape Area. Information on the evaluation mission has been published in some media and on the website:

<http://www.dobrenoviny.sk/c/102533/expert-zisti-plnenie-kriterii-europskeho-diplomu-pre-dobroccky-prales>

<https://naszvolen.sme.sk/c/20551604/expert-prisiel-skumat-dobroccky-prales-pozrite-sa-s-nami-don.html>

<http://www.enviroportal.sk/clanok/expert-zistuje-plnenie-kriterii-europskeho-diplomu-udelneho-dobrocckemu-pralesu> Tento odkaz na webovú stránku nefunguje

<http://www.minzp.sk/tlacovy-servis/tlacove-spravy/tlacove-spravy-2017/tlacove-spravy-jun-2017/dobroccky-prales-obhajil-prestizne-ocenenie-europsky-diplom.html>

³ <http://www.chkopolana.eu/news/narodna-prirodna-rezervacia-dobroccky-prales/>; <http://www.lesy.sk/showdoc.do?docid=2693;www.pralesy.sk>; <http://www.ciernybalog.sk/dobroccky-prales.phtml?id3=83412>; <http://vydra.sk/>; <http://www.huculskamagistrala.sk/externe/klaster/home.nsf/page/0be66ae90b0a7bd4c1257baa002a74d9?OpenDocument>; http://www.enviromagazin.sk/enviro2013/enviro3/22_ste.pdf; <http://slovakia.travel/dobroccky-prales>; <http://horehronie.sk/sk/atracie/prirodne-zaujímavosti/dobroccky-prales/>; <http://www.muranskaplantina.com/zaujímavosti-uzemia/priroda/npr-dobroccky-prales/>

In the period under review, two RTVS sessions were shot and broadcast.

Radio session:

RTVS – Regina - Bells over the country, 23.10.2016:

<https://www.rtv.sk/radio/archiv/1709/544659>

TV show: RTVS 1, Generation, April 2017: <http://www.rtv.sk/televizia/archiv/11736/123914>

In the period under review civic association VYDRA – rural development activity realized the printing of information and promotional materials about Dobročský prales NNR in the amount of 2,000 pieces with financial support of the municipality of Čierny Balog.

Published scientific works: During the period under review, no scientific work on the Dobročský prales NNR was published.

1. The impact of the award of the European Diploma on Protected Areas

The admission of the conditions and recommendations set out in the resolutions on the award of the European Diploma of the Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve reveal a positive impact on the protected area. This is confirmed by the long-term interest of the research and educational institutions not only from the Slovak Republic, but also from abroad about this territory. The share of students, especially universities, who are interested in carrying out diploma, bachelor or dissertation work in this area is significant, although it is not always desirable, and the State Nature Conservation of the Slovak Republic, Administration of the BR Poľana Protected Landscape Area regulates these activities rationally. The impact is visible thanks to the implementation of the already mentioned Swiss-Slovak cooperation project. Within it, a new educational walkway to the “Dobročský prales” was built. The objects of the new educational walkway are in excellent technical condition. The content of the educational panels (history of the territory, geology, flora, fauna, protected zone of Dobročský prales NNR) is at a high professional level and is also comprehensible to the general public.

The award of a European Diploma will increase the responsibility of the manager and the area manager for the implementation of the proposed measures for the management of forest stands in the Protected Area Protection Zone of the Dobročský prales NNR (zone B). Increased accountability and conservative approach to management in the buffer zone are currently in parts of the buffer zone with a significant spruce in over-leveling of forest stands at the beginning of recovery, which increases the risk of more dramatic disintegration of these parts of the buffer zone due to biotic as well as abiotic factors.

Annexes:

1. Activities from Dobročský prales – photos
2. Mission for evaluation – Dobročský prales NNR
3. List of participants – mission for evaluation of Dobročský prales NNR

In Zvolen, November 2017

Elaborated: Ing. Pavol Kostúr, State Nature Conservation of the Slovak Republic, Administration of the BR Poľana Protected Landscape Area

³ <http://www.chkopolana.eu/news/narodna-prirodna-rezervacia-dobroccky-prales/>; <http://www.lesy.sk/showdoc.do?docid=2693;.www.pralesy.sk>; <http://www.ciernybalog.sk/dobroccky-prales.phtml?id3=83412>; <http://vydra.sk/>; <http://www.huculskamagistrala.sk/externe/klaster/home.nsf/page/0be66ae90b0a7bd4c1257baa002a74d9?OpenDocument>; http://www.enviromagazin.sk/enviro2013/enviro3/22_ste.pdf; <http://slovakia.travel/dobroccky-prales>; <http://horehronie.sk/sk/atrakcie/prirodne-zaujímavosti/dobroccky-prales/>; <http://www.muranskaplana.com/zaujímavosti-uzemia/priroda/npr-dobroccky-prales/>