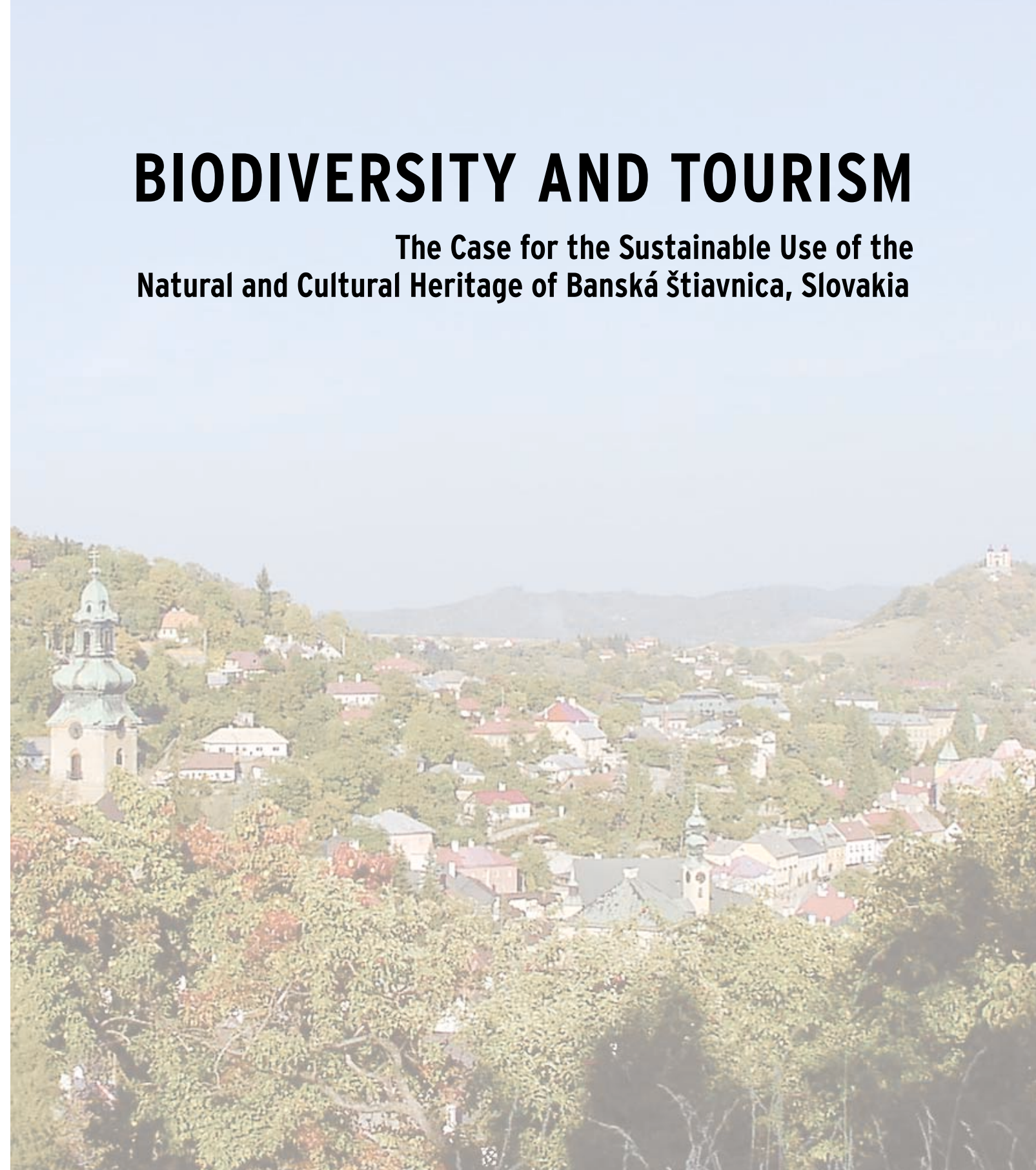


BIODIVERSITY AND TOURISM

The Case for the Sustainable Use of the
Natural and Cultural Heritage of Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia



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FOREWORD

Responsiveness to the relationships between Biodiversity and Tourism is important to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

- (a) the conservation of biological diversity,
- (b) the sustainable use of its components and
- (c) the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

In May 2000 in Nairobi, Kenya, the 5th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD decided to accept the „invitation to participate in the international work programme for sustainable tourism development under the Commission on Sustainable Development process with regard to biological diversity, in particular, with a view to contributing to international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems...“ (Decision V/25, COP5).

In June 2001, during a CBD workshop on biological diversity and tourism in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, experts from 27 Governments, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), non governmental organizations, representatives from indigenous and local communities and the private sector created the first draft of the international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable ecosystems.

In March 2003, after two rounds of open consultations held by the Secretariat of the CBD to incorporate the results of other international workshops as well as the views and proposals from all interested stakeholders, the CBD Guidelines on Biological Diversity and Tourism Development were endorsed by the 8th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Montreal, Canada.

Recommendations from SBSTTA8 were that COP adopt the guidelines at their 7th meeting in Kuala Lumpur in February 2004 and that the CBD Secretariat collect and disseminate information on specific case-studies on the implementation of the Guidelines.

The present case study includes conclusions and recommendations for the promotion of a sustainable tourism development in the region of Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia. It has been created in the framework of the project „Promoting sustainable tourism in Central and Eastern Europe: A demonstration model applied to the natural and cultural heritage of Banská Štiavnica“ funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. I hope that the results will be useful for the Banská Štiavnica region and that they will facilitate the process of the international implementation of the CBD Guidelines on Biological Diversity and Tourism Development.

Jürgen Trittin

Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



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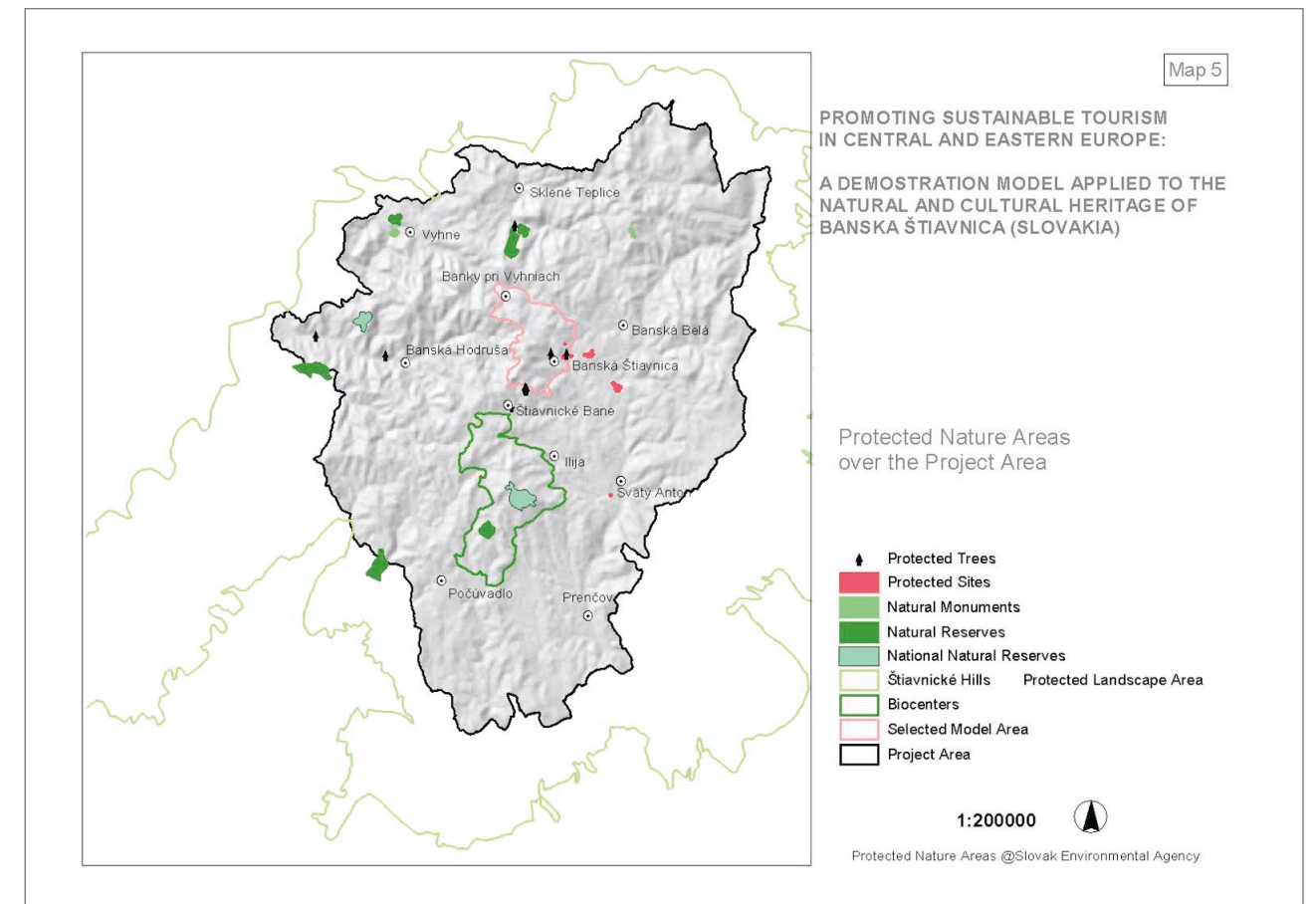
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BACKGROUND



In the framework of the development project „Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Central and Eastern Europe – A Demonstration Model Applied to the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia“ which is being realized by Ecological Tourism Europe (ETE), it was decided to test the implementation of the CBD Guidelines on Biological Diversity and Tourism Development. The present case study gives information about strengths and challenges of and recommendations for a sustainable tourism development in the Banská Štiavnica region.

The town of Banská Štiavnica is situated in the heart of the Štiavnica Hills, a Protected Landscape Area (a Slovak equivalent of the IUCN Category V – Protected Landscape/Seascape). The Štiavnica Hills Protected Landscape Area (PLA) has been established in 1979. The Area covers 77, 629 hectares and is one of the largest PLA in the Slovak Republic. The PLA contains 15 smaller nature reserves and protected sites or habitats of species.

The Štiavnica Hills are part of the Central Slovakian Volcanic Mountain System. The lowest part of the region is the Hron River Valley (200 metres above the sea level), the highest point is the Sitno Mountain (1009 m). A broad range of geological structures and geographical conditions has generated diverse ecological systems. Hundreds of years of mining activity have completely re-shaped the nearest surroundings of the town of Banská Štiavnica. However, human activity has generated a surprisingly beautiful cultural landscape. Both the human and natural elements are harmoniously united. On the other hand, there are large areas with well-preserved original habitats in some parts of the region.

In 1993, UNESCO included the historical town of Banská Štiavnica and the technical monuments (historical water-supply network) of its surroundings on the List of World Heritage. The region is known for its unique landscape that demonstrates a significant section of human history. In addition,

it represents an example of unique traditional ways of living and land use.

The project area is located in Central Slovakia, amidst of the Stiavnické Vrchy Hills. The project area is identified on the basis of the administrative border (cadaster) and includes the entire area of the Banská Štiavnica district, the village of Hodrusa-Hamre (district of Zarnovica), and the villages Vyhne, Repiste, and Sklene Teplice (district of Ziar nad Hronom).

The town of Banská Štiavnica is the centre of the entire area of the Štiavnica region. Our project area can be defined as a circle (with a 10 km radius) around this town. Its area is approximately 380 square kilometres with a jagged border. Approximately 60% of the area are hills or foothills that were created by volcanic activity (Stiavnické Vrchy Hills)

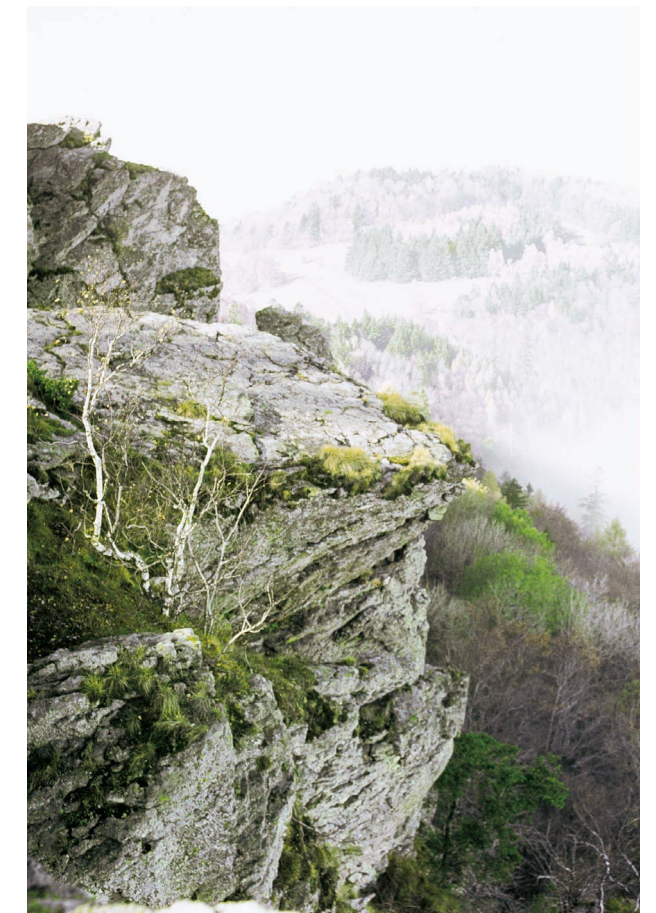
The area was selected by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and ETE after consultations with representatives of a number of other regions in Slovakia.

Nature

The project area is located in the Stiavnické Vrchy Hills, which has been a protected area since 1979. The area of the protected territory is 776.3 square km. The area was officially given a state protection status not only because of the need to protect nature and natural phenomena, but also because of the important cultural monuments and technical monuments connected with ore-mining that are present in the territory (Act No. 287/1994 of Coll. on nature and landscape protection, Regulation of the Slovak Ministry of Culture No. 124/1979 of Coll.)

The natural values of the Štiavnica Hills that supported the establishment of a protected area here include:

- It is the biggest volcanic mountain in Slovakia with all phenomena of a volcanic relief, but also with the existence of other types of rocks from the first geological age to the quarternary period.
- There is a the rich vein system (approximately 120 ore veins and arteries) here, including approximately 140 kinds of minerals, some of them endemic.



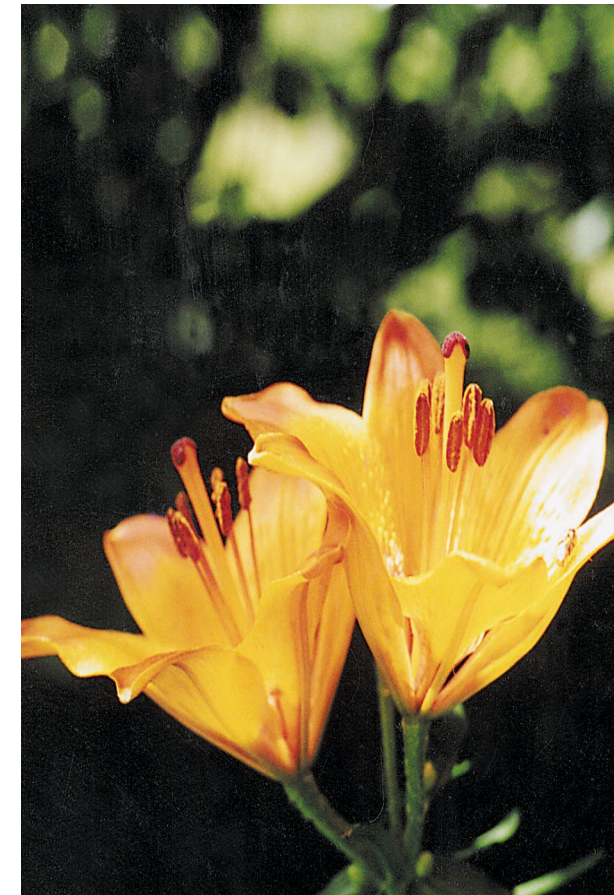
- It is an important biogeographical location (in comparison with other Slovak mountain systems containing ore veins, the Štiavnica metal region is a southern most location) as it is situated on the border of two different climatic types, fostering the existence of both Panonian and Carpathian Mountain flora and fauna species.
- The area is characterised by a special landscape with alternating forests and meadows, pastures, and settlements, and including also artificial water reservoirs.
- The area has more than 2 000 historical and mining monuments (galleries, shafts, funnels, lakes, and deposits) from which 39 are included in the list of technical monuments. These monuments are situated not only in the inhabited areas, but also in the surrounding landscape areas. They are not natural, but man-made. However, we include them here because they contribute a great deal into building the diversity of this area.

Geological composition

The Stiavnické Vrchy Hills have a varied geological structure, which is also reflected in the various types of volcanic relief. These hills were created in the Neogene geological period within numerous volcanic phases. Banská Štiavnica is often called the „Mecca of Minerals“, because during the individual volcanic phases more than 120 ore veins and arteries containing many different types and species of minerals (140) were created.

Flora

The widely varied composition of flora and fauna found in the area is a result of the varied landscape characterised by good climatic, morphological, historical, anthropogenic and other conditions. Typical for this area is the intertwining of Pannonian and Carpathian mountain types of flora and fauna. Nearly 72% of this area are covered by forest, a part of which still has the original structure of plant communities. In this area we can see different climatic zones, and the mosaic-like alternated biotopes create the rich biodiversity which exists there. On the landscape of the CHKO (protected area) there can currently be found more than 1500 species of higher plants, some of which are protected by law or are in the Red Book of protected species in Slovakia.



Orange Lily (*Lilium bulbiferum*)



Siberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*)



Iris (*Iris graminea*)



Azalea (*Rhododendron* sp.)



Broad Leaved Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza majalis*)



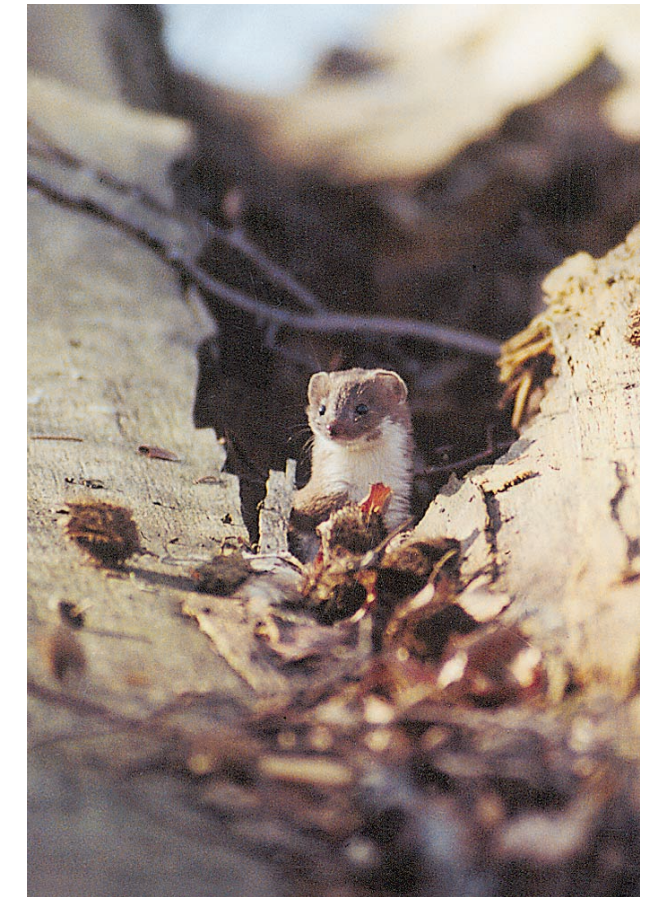
Spring Pheasant's Eye (*Adonis vernalis*)

Fauna

The characteristics of fauna in this area are conditioned not only by the natural ecological factors in the environment, but also by the effects of intensive human habitation dating from the 12th century. Deep in the forest exist large predators (such as lynx and brown bear) and quite possibly other protected animals. Extensively used meadows and xerothermic open slopes are rich in various vertebrates. Specific biotopes are underground natural caves and also artificial mining spaces in this volcanic region, with many troglodylous species.



Salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*)



Weasel (*Mustela mustela*)



Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)



Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*)



Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*)



Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

Ecological networks

(bio centres, bio corridors, GNÚSES, RÚSES, EECONET, NECONET, Natura 2000, Emerald etc.)

Ecological networks were initiated after 1991 together with the trend of sustainable development. The networks should provide efficient instruments for the stabilisation of nature, i.e. development of natural resources in the ecosystems and the reinforcement of the interconnection between the ecosystems. The abbreviation USES means Territorial System of Ecological Stability, GNÚSES – The General of National USES adopted by Government of Slovak Republic, RÚSES – The Regional USES adopted by relevant regional authority, EECONET – theoretical proposal for European Ecological Network, NECONET – theoretical proposal for National Ecological Network.

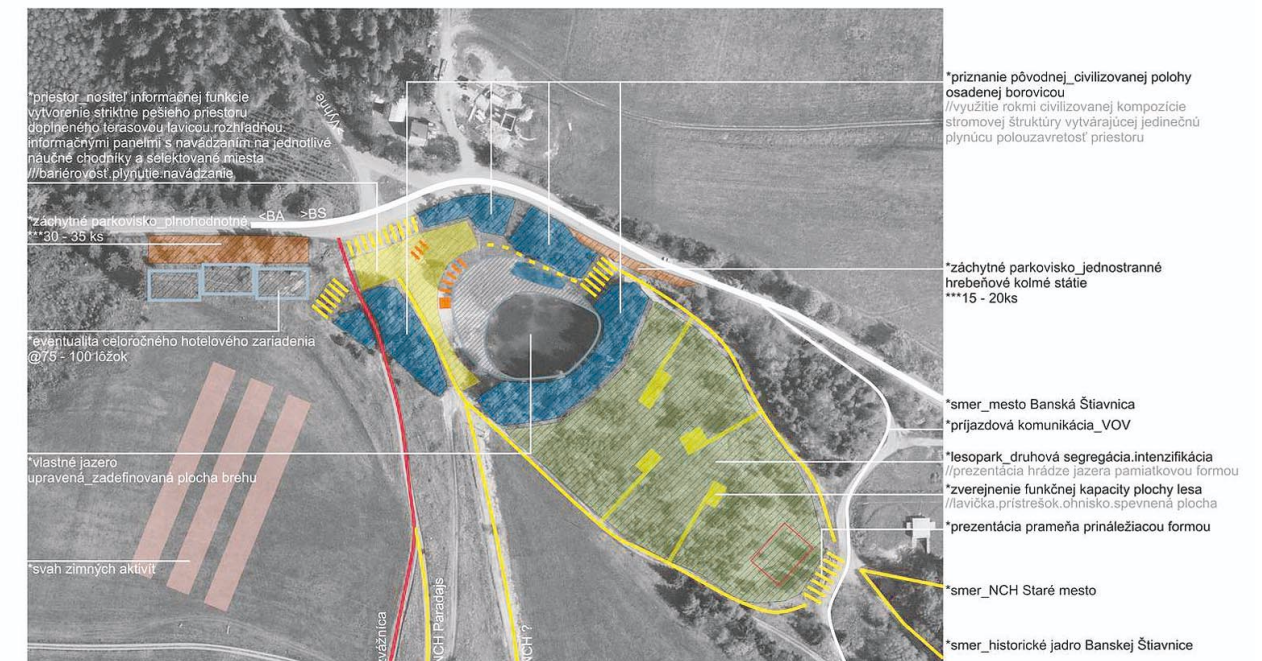
- The GNÚSES network is established and the regional network in Banská Štiavnica region called RÚSES followed it. However, the networks were based on different approaches and methods and were created for areas, which did not correspond with the areas of state administration. This resulted in their incoherence. In addition, some local professional organisations have recently cast doubt about the quality of the regional USES. The studied area was included into GNÚSES after adoption in 1991 and is represented by the supraregional bio centre Sitno.

- The GNÚSES network was followed by the NECONET, which has just been started and which should be coherent with the ecological networks of the bordering lands and should also be a part of the European Ecological Network EECONET. To the detriment of the cause, the project of this network is not compatible with the GNÚSES network. At present, an updated version of GNÚSES network is planned for renewal, which should also be compatible with the EECONET and NECONET networks. In the studied area, GNÚSES is compatible with EECONET and NECONET and Sitno could become an European level bio centre.
- When Slovak Republic decided to join the EU, the project of the Emerald network appeared here, whose management and system are identical with the network Natura 2000 in the EU states. At first, 28 territories were preliminarily selected for the Emerald network (CHKO Stiavnické Vrchy was one of them), finally only 10 of them were accepted by group of experts. These 10 territories were chosen because they could be made compatible with the network and because they are extraordinarily exceptional. Stiavnické Vrchy were not chosen because of the criteria for Emerald (species and habitats).

Tourism

The Stiavnické Vrchy in general and Sitno (1009 m) in particular are regarded as the European cradle of tourism for areas of middle elevation (mountains). The history of touristic activities can be traced back to the ancient European family Coburg-Kohary – Mikulas Kohary built the tourism look-out on Sitno Hill in 1727. The first unofficial tourist club („Club Sitno“) was founded in 1860 in this region. In 1882, the official institution „Banskostiavnický odbor Karpatskeho spolku turistického v Uhorsku“ (Banská Štiavnica division of the Carpathian tourist club in the Hungarian Empire) was founded. In Slovakia, Sitno is considered to be a mystic hill – the ancient legend says that under this hill, fairy people are sleeping – „sitnianski rytieri“ (the knights of the Sitno Hill), who will help Slovakia in the horrible times.

Three different buildings have been built on the top: a look-out, a tourism cottage and a TV tower. The look-out was renovated in 1888 by Filip Coburg. Currently this building houses an information centre, and it is one of the stopping places along the „Educational trail Sitno“ (3 kilometres, 13 stopping places). Sitno is a national nature reserve covering an area of 93,68 hectares. The area was designated as a reserve in 1951, the original intention being the protection of the forest communities as well as non-living nature.



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Banská Štiavnica

_Ing. arch. richard murgaš
_Ing. arch. peter mravec
01.03

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities for tourism and biodiversity protection in the Slovak Republic are divided into several institutions at national, regional and local level.

1.1 Tourism Development

1.1.1 National Level

Although there are several central institutions that are active in tourism in Slovakia, tourism has no special ministry or „ministry like“ body.

Tourism belongs to sphere of action of **Ministry of Economy**. Its responsibilities in field of tourism are mainly to set up basics of the state policy in the field of tourism, to prepare tourism policies and prognosis, to analyse and evaluate the economic conditions for tourism development and to propose measures for their improvement. In addition, the Ministry is responsible for tourism promotion on the national level, for the preparation and management of supporting programs, for the initiation of founding tourism associations, etc.

Because of the wide range of tourism, it is not sufficient that the Ministry of Economy is the only responsible body at national level. In addition, the Ministry of Economy is responsible for several tasks, which actually are of more political interest than tourism (e.g. gas transportation, power engineering, etc.). Tourism is not among the priorities of this Ministry, and this fact is reflected in the insufficient meeting of the above stated responsibilities, hence the functioning of the Ministry and the national government in the sphere of tourism is insufficient.

There is an active special institution for tourism at the national level – **Slovak Agency for Tourism** (Slovenska agentura pre cestovny ruch – SACR). It was founded by Ministry of Economy and its mission is mainly foreign marketing of Slovakia as a tourist destination. The Agency fulfils its mission e.g. through carrying out marketing surveys, publishing promotion materials and guide-books, organising trips around Slovakia for journalists, participating in tourism fairs, and the like. In addition, the SACR has currently opened several foreign offices (e.g. in Prague, Vienna, Warsaw, etc.).

It is clear that the actual impact of the work of such agency cannot be properly measured. In addition, there are other obstacles that hinder the

development of tourism in Slovakia (e.g. legislation, bureaucracy, corruption, quality of service, etc.), therefore, it is difficult to specify to what extent is the marketing of Slovakia (being the main task of the SACR) insufficient. But it may be said that the contribution of the SACR in the active tourism development in Slovakia is probably not very significant. In addition to the above described insufficiencies, it is also caused by a significant lack of financial resources of the Agency or its partners in the regions, and by an insufficient support received from the State or regional and local governments.

The **Ministry of Agriculture** and the **Ministry of Constructing and Regional Development** hold some responsibilities for tourism development at national level. The Ministry of Agriculture participates on the rural development including partially agro-tourism strategy and methodology preparation and supports rural tourism development projects. In addition, the Ministry uses some supporting tools (such as grants, financial gifts, etc.) to promote tourism development.

Although **Ministry of Constructing and Regional Development** is the most logical body for tourism development and support, it has no special strategy or program. Since the ministry secures and supports regional development (of which tourism is part of), it collaborates with Ministry of Economy in including of tourism in regional development documents, strategies, etc. The program for improving of the non-developed regions supports several projects on tourism (particularly tourism infrastructure) but this support is not very great and it is provided not on specialised bases.

Regarding other bodies of the central state administration and public institutions on national level, the position of tourism in their agenda is only marginal or it is not a focus of their work at all.

There is a number of non-governmental organisations that are active in this area on the national level, e.g. The Slovak Association of Travel Agencies, Association of Information Centres in Slovakia, The Slovak Union of Rural Tourism and Agritourism, and others. These organisations, with more or less success, are able to advocate for the interests of their members in the field of legislation development, co-ordination of tourism, and the like.





The Principles of Tourism Development in Banská Štiavnica have been prepared as part of the project Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Central and Eastern Europe: A Demonstration Model Applied to the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Banská Štiavnica, and approved by the Town Council of Banská Štiavnica.

Project partners:



The town of Banská Štiavnica – it is located in Central Slovakia and is known for its rich mining history. It has been on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites since 1993. For more information, go to www.banskastianica.sk.



Ecological Tourism in Europe – German non-profit organisation that promotes environmentally sound and socially responsible tourism. For more information, go to www.oete.de.



Amber Trail – Slovak non-profit organisation that promotes sustainable tourism in selected regions of Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. For more information, go to www.jantarovecesta.sk.



**Principles of Tourism Development
in Banská Štiavnica**



1.1.2 Regional and Sub-Regional Level

The council of the **Banská Bystrica Regional County** (Banskobystrický samosprávny kraj – BBSK) is a regional elected body. Its mission in the field of tourism is, on one hand, given by the national legislation, and on the other by goals defined by this body itself. There is a commission for tourism working within this regional parliament. To fulfil its mission, the council has established its Office of the BBSK.

The main activity of the county in the sphere of tourism are: co-ordination of promotion activities, and advocating for the county when national strategies and programs are developed. In addition, the Office has been lately trying to co-ordinate the preparation of the Strategy of Tourism Development in the Banská Bystrica County. In spite of the fact that the potential of this structure is great and could play a very important role in the future, it has not yet contributed significantly in tourism development in the area of Banská Štiavnica.

At sub-regional level there is a non-governmental organisation – the **Association for the Development of the Middle Hron Region**, that is among others focused on tourism development and

co-ordination in the Region of Middle Hron (River Valley, including three districts – Banská Štiavnica, Zarnovica and Ziar nad Hronom). The creation of the association was initiated and supported for several years by British Know-How Fund through Project of Regional and Institutional Development of Slovakia. The association tries to realise the basic tasks (e.g. strategy planning, regional marketing, promotion, tour operating, etc), however it performs almost no activities in the area of Banská Štiavnica. There are only a few people from Banská Štiavnica who are members of this association.

1.1.3 Local Level

a) Local administration institutions

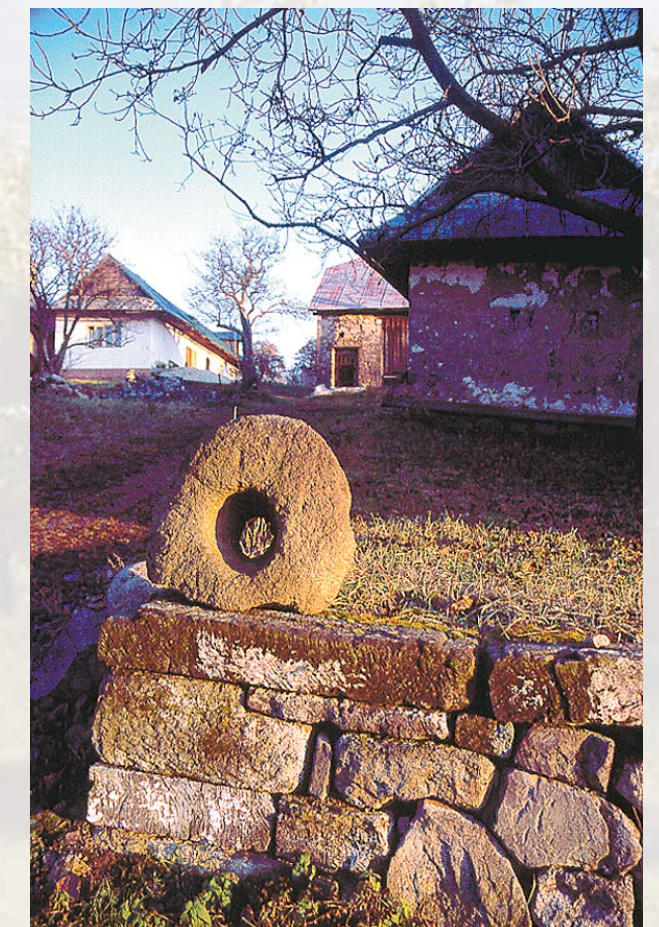
At the local level, the Banská Štiavnica **Town Council** and **Town Hall** should be the most important institutions. The Town Council has its commission for tourism, however, this has not assumed an important role in tourism development yet. In addition, the commission deals with business issues in general, so tourism is not its only priority. The town representatives formally declare tourism as one of the priority directions of development for the town, however, the practical steps and decisions hinder rather than promote sustainable tourism

development in Banská Štiavnica. There is no work position or a body at the Town Hall, which would focus especially on tourism; as a result, the decisions adopted by the Town Council and the Town Hall's steps are not co-ordinated at all from tourism point of view. On the contrary, they are often contradictory or even pursuing unsuitable objectives. Usually, steps that are not primarily connected with tourism (e.g. building of a sewer treatment plant, network of roads, etc.) are declared to be as tourism-supporting; on the other hand, issues that are directly related with tourism are not evaluated from this point of view, or they are often improperly evaluated. (e.g. parking, keeping the town clean, marketing of the town, and the like). In addition, some of the activity areas (where the town management should be involved), such as co-ordination of tourism-related activities in the town and adapting some of the town's activities to tourism requirements, are practically ignored by the town's administration. Adopting decisions with a

sole perspective of short-term effects define the town management, including tourism management, in Banská Štiavnica. An analysis of long-term effects of particular decisions is missing, and a principal problem is the absence of any kind of a long-term strategic planning.

The Town Hall runs the **Tourist Information Office** in the city centre and provides essential conditions for its operation (room, salaries, necessary equipment, etc.). The spectrum of services that are provided by this office is not very wide; it in fact offers only the basic service, and this is again a hinderance for tourism development in the town and its surrounding.

There is a specific organisation **Mestské lesy, s.r.o. (Municipal Forests)** that was established by the town of Banská Štiavnica with a purpose of maintaining forests that are in the ownership of the town. Their practical work had not been connected



with tourism so far (except for the facts that they were continually decreasing the quality of the environment by insensitive felling and criticising the maintenance of the cross-country skiing trails); however, after the management change in spring 2003, it is generally expected that they will be more intensively involved in tourism development. **The Sitno – Association for Development of Banská Štiavnica and its Surroundings** is a new institution in the area. It was established by local governments of villages/towns in the district, and by some other villages/towns with a purpose to promote and co-ordinate the development of tourism and use it as a tool of regional development. Since the Association was established in spring 2003, its practical contribution in tourism development cannot be evaluated, yet.

b) Local institutions in state responsibility

At local level the national coverage in mining industry research and protection belongs to the Slovak Mining Museum – the national museum of

mining, geology and another natural sciences. The Mining Museum in Nature is considered to be the greatest tourist attraction in the region. In addition, there are other attractions that are also in the administration of the Slovak Mining Museum, e.g. The Glanzenberg Gallery, various museum exhibits, etc. The Slovak Mining Museum, therefore, represents an important factor of tourism development in the town and its significance will definitely be even increasing.

The museum is mainly oriented on the history of research and „science“ however it trends to manage tourism activities in recent months – improving and extending the offers for visitors, organising events, marketing activities, renting out rooms/buildings in their ownership, etc. In general, however, the museum is still only trying to find its position in the world of tourism. This is caused, on one hand, by a lack of the museum’s human resource capacity for tourism development, but on the other hand by an unclear tourism management policy and its



co-ordination on regional level. The trends in the museum, however, are quite promising.

The Slovak Mining Museum co-operates close with the **Slovak Agency for the Environment – Centre for Programming Environmental Projects (SAE – CPEP)**, Banská Štiavnica, on the Geopark Banská Štiavnica project. The goal of the project is to develop a system of sites and localities that are important or interesting from the point of view of mining, geology and environmental science. These sites/locations should be connected by various trails. The system should then serve the purpose of presenting and interpreting the mining heritage of the region, and it has the potential to appeal to large target groups of visitors, thus becoming a significant tourism development factor in the region.

The project is now only in its starting time and has not yet made a significant contribution to tourism development in the town and its surroundings. The already existing elements of the Geopark (Glanzenberg Gallery, Information Centre of Geopark, finished soon should be the Geological Education Trail Paradajz and Geological Exhibit in the Open-Air Mining Museum) are formally administered by the Slovak Mining Museum. However, the SAE – CPEP has also an effect on their development and maintenance. Although the Geopark is not a completed system, yet, an it is marked by an unclear management with a lack of comprehensible policy, it holds a great potential for tourism development in the region. If its management improves, it could even during its construction attract a great number of visitors.

The **Slovak Mining Office** is part of the national mining management administration. It has no influence on the tourism however it is the leading organisation in mining (and geology partially) and may influence some practices.

The **State Central Mining Archive** is a national institution. Extremely valuable items are stored there, however it is not active in tourism. This archive could be one of the most attractive offers in region if it would open for visitors (in suitable way, of course, since its mission is keeping valuable documents, not to receive visitors).

The **Museum in St. Anton** is located 3 km southward from Banská Štiavnica. It is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture. It plays an important role in tourism and therefore it can function as a best practice model example. It has higher attendance than Open Mining Museum (probably due to better marketing). Beside general historical exhibition the museum shows also a hunting exhibition, which is very popular and well known in Slovakia. The Museum organises several highly attended events during the year, most of them connected with hunting and forestry.

The **Slovak Watermanagement Company** has assumed its role in tourism development in the region as well. This company works on a gradual renovation of the mining lakes in the vicinity of Banská Štiavnica, and no doubt that this has its significant impact on increasing the quality of offers for the visitors.



Principles of Tourism Development in Banská Štiavnica

We, the members of the Town Council of Banská Štiavnica, have agreed on the following provisions:

1. We are aware of the fact that Banská Štiavnica and its vicinity is on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites, and this is not only a unifying achievement but also a unique opportunity for developing tourism in the town and its surroundings;
2. We consider tourism to be an important basis for the economic well-being of the town because it creates jobs and generates income for local businesses;
3. We are convinced that tourism is an educational medium that helps visitors and residents to learn about Banská Štiavnica's history and its natural and cultural resources, thus creating a sense of common interest among local residents and their visitors;
4. We recognise that the town's scenic beauty, historical sites, cultural resources and traditions constitute the basis for long-term viable development of all tourism activities;
5. We are concerned that while tourism may significantly contribute to socio-economic development and cultural exchange, it also has the potential to degrade the natural environment, social structures and cultural heritage;
6. We further recognise that the town's natural and cultural resources should be preserved and nurtured not only because they are an essential basis for sustainable development, but because they are valued by Banská Štiavnica residents;
7. We are convinced that tourism and recreation activities should respect the ecological characteristics and capacity of the local environment in which they take place;
8. We take into account that sustainable forms of tourism generate income mainly for local communities, and therefore their interests and culture require particular attention;
9. We are convinced that achieving sustainable forms of tourism is the responsibility of all stakeholders involved, including the private sector, environmental groups and the citizens of Banská Štiavnica;
10. We understand that tourist and recreation activities need to be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable; thus, tourism and recreation activities in Banská Štiavnica should be developed and managed in compliance with the principles defined in this document.

Therefore, to implement an active policy of tourism in the town of Banská Štiavnica and on territories under the influence of the Town Council, the Town of Banská Štiavnica shall observe the following principles:

11. The tourist and recreation activities in the town and its vicinity shall be planned and managed in such a way that they contribute maximally to the economic and social development of the town and its surroundings, while having minimal or no negative impact on the town's natural and cultural heritage.
12. In sensitive areas (mainly those with a higher level of natural or cultural heritage protection), the top priority shall be protection of the heritage against the negative influence of tourism activities.
13. Tourism development concerns all the inhabitants of Banská Štiavnica and, therefore, it is important that all activities of the town related to tourism be made accessible to the general public in an appropriate way.
14. All activities focused on tourism development in the town and on territories under the influence of the Town Council shall follow the strategy of regional development accepted by the Town Council. This strategy (and documents referring to it), in addition to any other policies that the strategy encompasses or refers to, shall meet the following requirements:
 - it shall be approved by the Town Council as a general binding regulation;
 - it shall comply with the documents of the zoning plan;
 - it shall reflect those rightful interests of the inhabitants of the town and its vicinity that do not harm the natural and cultural heritage of the town and region;
 - it shall define the short-, mid- and long-term goals of regional development, with an emphasis on cultural and natural heritage protection (including conservation of biodiversity);
 - it shall divide the territory into zones, and define the appropriateness of each zone for particular forms of tourism, while considering the lowest possible impact of a given activity on the environment.
15. To implement the above principles, the Town of Banská Štiavnica shall adhere to the following:
 - preferential use of existing facilities, and limitation, to the greatest extent possible, of the construction of new facilities; any new facilities shall be located on sites where they do not cause any damage to the natural and cultural heritage nor to the characteristic image of the landscape and its settlements;
 - preferential use of materials, technologies and solutions that are environmentally sound and have been traditionally used in the town and its region;
 - respect for the legislation, and adherence to the professional statements of relevant authorities and institutions as well as to the results of environmental impact assessments.
16. The activities and co-operation of various public and private entities in the field of tourism and heritage protection (including entities that are only indirectly connected with tourism, e.g. suppliers, services, etc.) shall be co-ordinated. The purpose of communication, consultation and information-sharing is to develop a favourable and effective environment for tourism in the town and its vicinity. In addition, it is necessary to define clearly the mission, rights and responsibilities of the particular entities.
17. In order to support the private sector in responsibly fulfilling tasks that are part of sustainable tourism development, economic tools and investment incentives (such as providing prizes, certificates and eco-labels) shall be used.
18. The financial income gained from tourism (e.g. fees, taxes, etc.) shall be used to further tourism development as well as to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the town.
19. The town of Banská Štiavnica shall carry out model restoration activities in territories/localities that have been damaged by tourism and thus motivate the general public to get involved in such activities as well.
20. The inhabitants of Banská Štiavnica shall be motivated to spend more time in the historical centre of town. For that purpose, some measures shall be taken, e.g. local entrepreneurs and institutions shall be encouraged to extend business hours, activities that attract people to the centre shall be supported, an effort may be made to improve the public transportation system, etc.
21. Various forms of education about sustainable development shall be promoted and/or organised for inhabitants and visitors of the town and its vicinity. Such education aims to help avoid negative impacts of tourist activities on the natural and cultural heritage, and its goals are mainly as follows:
 - to increase the sensitivity of inhabitants and visitors to the elements that form the characteristic appearance of the town and the surrounding landscape – both natural and cultural elements (natural features, flora and fauna, technical and cultural monuments, customs and traditions, etc.);
 - to understand the contribution of (1) natural and cultural heritage protection and (2) sustainable tourism to the economic and social development of the town and its region.
22. The activities of the town in the field of tourism shall be monitored and evaluated regularly, at least once a year, and other public and private tourism entities shall be motivated to carry out similar self-evaluations. The goal of monitoring and self-evaluation is to reveal the economic, social and environmental impacts of activities as well as to determine developmental trends. Based on this information, new activities in the field of tourism and recreation shall be planned or the existing ones adjusted.
23. Regular surveys of visitors in summer, winter and the off-seasons shall be completed with the goal of finding out numbers, interests, motivations, experiences and recommendations of the town visitors. The results of these surveys shall be publicly accessible.
24. Round table discussions about tourism shall be organised regularly. The professional public from the town and its surroundings shall be invited to these meetings. The focus of the round tables will be to exchange information about new, existing and completed tourism projects, activities and products available in the town and its vicinity, to clarify issues of co-operation and co-ordination, and to allow networking.

Accepted by resolution No.53/2003 of the Town Council in Banská Štiavnica on April 24, 2003.



c) Educational institutions

The **Private Hotel Academy** educates professionals in the field of hotel and gastronomic management (for hotels, restaurants, bars, etc.). The centre of their practical education is in the kitchen and dining room of the district office. Students are used to do their practical work experience (their work is usually of a very good quality) in some facilities in Banská Štiavnica. The school is also able to ensure a very good quality catering service at social events in the town. However, its influence on the town is not very visible. Maybe it is due to the fact that school is private and expensive, therefore only a few students are from Banská Štiavnica, substantial majority is coming from another towns and regions.

Also **Gymnasium** (local high school) does some work in the field of tourism. Within the Bata Junior Achievement program, students work on various projects (making inventories, town presentations, model business plans, etc.). The importance of this project is underestimated, and the potential services of students for tourism in the town and its surrounding remain unused (e.g. for making visitor surveys, information updates, etc.).

In addition, the education at universities in the town – **College of Ecology and Environmental Science of the Technical University in Zvolen**, **Departments of Eco-museology and Landscape Ecology of the Matej Bell University** in Banská Bystrica – is also directly or indirectly related to tourism. None of them teaches tourism as an individual subject, however, they deal with the relation of tourism to natural or cultural environment in some of the subjects. Students and teachers could have an important role in tourism development in the region, however, their potential has not been used much, yet.

d) Non-Governmental institutions

Banská Štiavnica-Hodrusa Association of Miners is an active body that makes an effort to preserve the old miners' habits (e.g. schachttags, celebrations, etc.) and is able to perform them for visitors. In addition, they organise regular seminars on various aspects of the mining history of region.

The **Amber Trail Association** tries to implement the principles of sustainability in the tourism development in the region. The main task of the AT association is to support (technical assistance, consulting, limited financial support) and operate tourism products that contribute to rural development. The Association provides some support to selected events in the town and its surroundings, and co-operates on some tourism projects. Its main activity, however, is to implement two tourism products – (1) lodging and program for tourists visiting Banská Štiavnica, and (2) biking journeys from Budapest to Cracow passing through Banská Štiavnica. In spite of the fact that the Association is among the significant tourism stakeholders in the town, its activity is marked by a lack of capacity and a not quite clearly defined strategy for the upcoming years.

Though the **F. J. Turcek Foundation** is primarily focused on landscape-ecological research, one of its activities is also the maintenance of trails for cross-country skiing in the surroundings of the town. Due to lack of co-ordination, the activities of this foundation are not received positively by the potential partners (mainly by **Mestské lesy, s.r.o.** – the institution that is in charge of forest

management). In spite of this problem, the contribution of the foundation in the winter tourist season development is undoubtedly positive.

Although several tourist non-governmental professional organisations exist in Slovakia (The Slovak Association of the Travel Agencies, The Union of Hotels and Restaurants, The Slovak Union of Rural Tourism and Agrotourism), they are not active in the region of Banská Štiavnica. The Municipal Information Office is a member of the Association of Information Centres in Slovakia, however, the impact of this membership is too minor to be perceived.

e) Business associations and professional organisations

This category of organisations is not present in the region, yet. There is no tourism, or any other business club in the town, no business support centre, no guild or other similar organisation. It causes problems for tourism development in the region, because the participation of business people is unclear and non-systematic. As a result, the interests of businessmen are difficult to advocate for.



1.2 Biodiversity protection

1.2.1 State Level

The responsibility for the development and protection of protected areas lies within the competence of the **Ministry for the Environment**. In the field of biodiversity protection, the Ministry is responsible (among other tasks) for policy making, developing programs and preparing documents required for nature protection, assigning a state-protection status to flora/fauna species and territories, supervising the care for protected areas, including their economic use, and the like. The Ministry has no particular and effective power over or program for tourism, though this field is partially included in some of its programs.

There are various organisations that fall within the management of the Ministry for the Environment of the SR, e.g.:



The Slovak Agency for the Environment in Banská Bystrica is mainly a professional organisation that is in charge of expertise work in the field of environment protection. Among other activities, it deals with territorial development, territorial planning, landscape design, re-design of towns, rural development, environment impact assessment, monitoring the quality of the environment and developing information systems, documenting the environment, economy of the environment, protection of cultural landscape and natural heritage. The Agency has a network of branches/centres within Slovakia, one of them – The Centre for Programming Environmental Projects – is located in Banská Štiavnica

In general, the quality and impact of the work of the centres vary; some activities are effective and of high quality and the effectivity of others is questionable. In addition, the mission and the position of some of the centres within the structure of the environment protection in Slovakia are not quite clear. The Agency has no national tourism program.

The State Nature Protection in Banská Bystrica is in charge of doing professional work in the field of nature and landscape conservation for the use by the state administration. This institution is focused on general and specific territorial conservation of nature and landscape, animals, plants, rocks, fossils and trees. Its agenda also includes environmental education and promotion, monitoring, information systems and documentation. The offices of protected areas fall under the administration by this institution. The Agency has no special program for tourism, however, its activities are frequently related to tourism, mainly in the field of management of protected areas.

The Slovak Environmental Inspection is an organisation, through which the state carries out state supervision of nature conservation. The SEI is a national institution; it is a professional and independent organisation that contributes effectively to the environment protection.

1.2.2 Regional Level

On regional level (i.e. on the county level), the nature and landscape protection rights are implemented by the **county office**. In the territory of our interest (2nd and higher degrees of protection), the work of the office includes: management and control of the state administration work in nature and landscape protection in the county; issuance of approvals for building hiking and biking trails, roads for carrying away wood and other roads; issuance of approvals for construction activities in territories with higher degree of protection, and the like. The county office provides statements to zoning plans, to principal documents of regional development, and to territorial decisions and construction permits in territories with higher degree of protection. The office decides about the protection degree of a natural monument and approves its border lines. If necessary, the office may approve an exempt from activities that are generally forbidden in the territory; it also issues generally binding legal rules regarding nature and landscape protection, orders improvement requirements and may also co-ordinate and manage the work of rangers.

1.2.3 Local Level

a) State institutions

On local level, the state is represented by specialised state administration – Office for the Environment. In the territory of our interest (2nd and higher degrees of protection), the office is in charge of providing permissions to the following activities: some economic activities in the landscape (e.g. grazing), placing an information equipment, organising events in the country, using equipment that disturbs animals, collecting, processing and selling rocks and fossils, and the like. In addition, the office has the right to limit or forbid activities having a negative impact on nature. It provides statements to construction permits, territorial decisions, terrain adjustments, and to documents of regional development at local level. The office issues

generally binding legal rules regarding nature and landscape protection; it may also order sanctions and improvement requirements.

The model area is under the responsibility of the SNC SR – **Management of the Stiavnické Vrchy Protected Landscape Area** (CHKO Stiavnické Vrchy) that is seated in Banská Štiavnica. The management is also responsible for territory outside the model area.

Pursuant to legislation, the Office of a Protected Landscape Area (PLA) is in charge of preparing various documents and statements regarding the use of the PLA; it also evaluates the consequences of changes made in ecosystems and proposes ways of their protection. The PLA office carries out various activities with a goal to optimise the nature and landscape protection, participates in projects, marks protected localities, and the like. In some cases, specified in legislation, the state administration is not allowed to issue permits in the fields of environment protection, agriculture and regional development without a prior approval by the PLA office.

Currently, the Office of the Stiavnické Vrchy PLA is lacking personal and technical capacity for fulfilling all its duties. As a result, the PLA Office is not capable of sufficient administration of the territory they are responsible for.

b) Local government institutions

The villages were not given by the legislation too many responsibilities to fulfill in regard to nature protection. They provide statements mainly to planting/cutting greens and the like. However, the local governments carry out an important function of building offices, i.e. they issue construction permits, certainly upon considering and evaluating all the necessary statements. Therefore, the towns/villages play an important role in tourism development, hence the necessity to pay an increased attention to this level of government.

1.2.4 Educational institutions

There are three institutions in the model area that educate students in various environmental-science subjects (**College of Ecology and Environmental Science** of the Zvolen Technical University, **Department of Ecology** of the Banská Bystrica University, **Department of Ecomuseology** of Banská Bystrica University). However, none of these three institutions participate formally in the heritage management and sustainable development of the town (only students and teachers on an individual basis). This is quite unusual because these schools educate particularly in the field of relations between the man and nature (Banská Štiavnica being a typical example of), which was among the reasons for including the region in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In addition, there are various high schools and technical schools that prepare students for middle-level management jobs in various fields of economy. Some of these schools, e.g. the Forestry High School and two technical schools, focus also on preparing students to work in the field of the environment protection. Similarly to universities, these schools do not participate formally in the town's heritage management either, although individuals are active.

STRENGTHS

- The history of the town is closely connected with various institutions that were, at the time of their existence, significantly involved in dealing with human activities in nature (Main Mining Office, Mining and Forestry Academy, etc.), thus building a tradition of nature conservation in the region.
- In the town, there is currently a number of public and private organisations dealing with the man-and-nature relation.

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no overall and effective tourism planning and management existing on the national level in Slovakia; in some areas, tourism is co-ordinated on the regional level. The competence of the Ministry for Economy is limited to policy making, data analysis and the like. The Slovak Tourism Agency is only responsible for promotion activities, and the Ministry for the Environment holds no responsibilities in the field of tourism.

- It is necessary to establish an inter-ministerial institution that would focus on the management of tourism and biodiversity relations. Such an institution should be a partner for the ministries of the environment, economy, regional development and agriculture.



Most institutions in regions work without reference to, and compete with, each other. There is no pressure for them to collaborate and no culture of co-operation exists between them. There is limited understanding of the value of collaboration among business community and the public institutions. This situation is common for the whole of Slovakia. As a result, tourism activities are not well co-ordinated, and no clear guidance is available for tourism investors and operators.

- The co-ordination between the institutions and administration with influence on the tourism development and the management of biodiversity should be improved. In the model region the town office should show higher involvement (then more institutions will be attracted). Some institution has to be installed to be responsible for tourism and biodiversity. This is needed both at regional and local level. A co-ordination group and a task force consisting of all stakeholders has to be established, which has the possibility to take responsibility for the sustainable development of the area, especially regarding tourism and nature conservation.

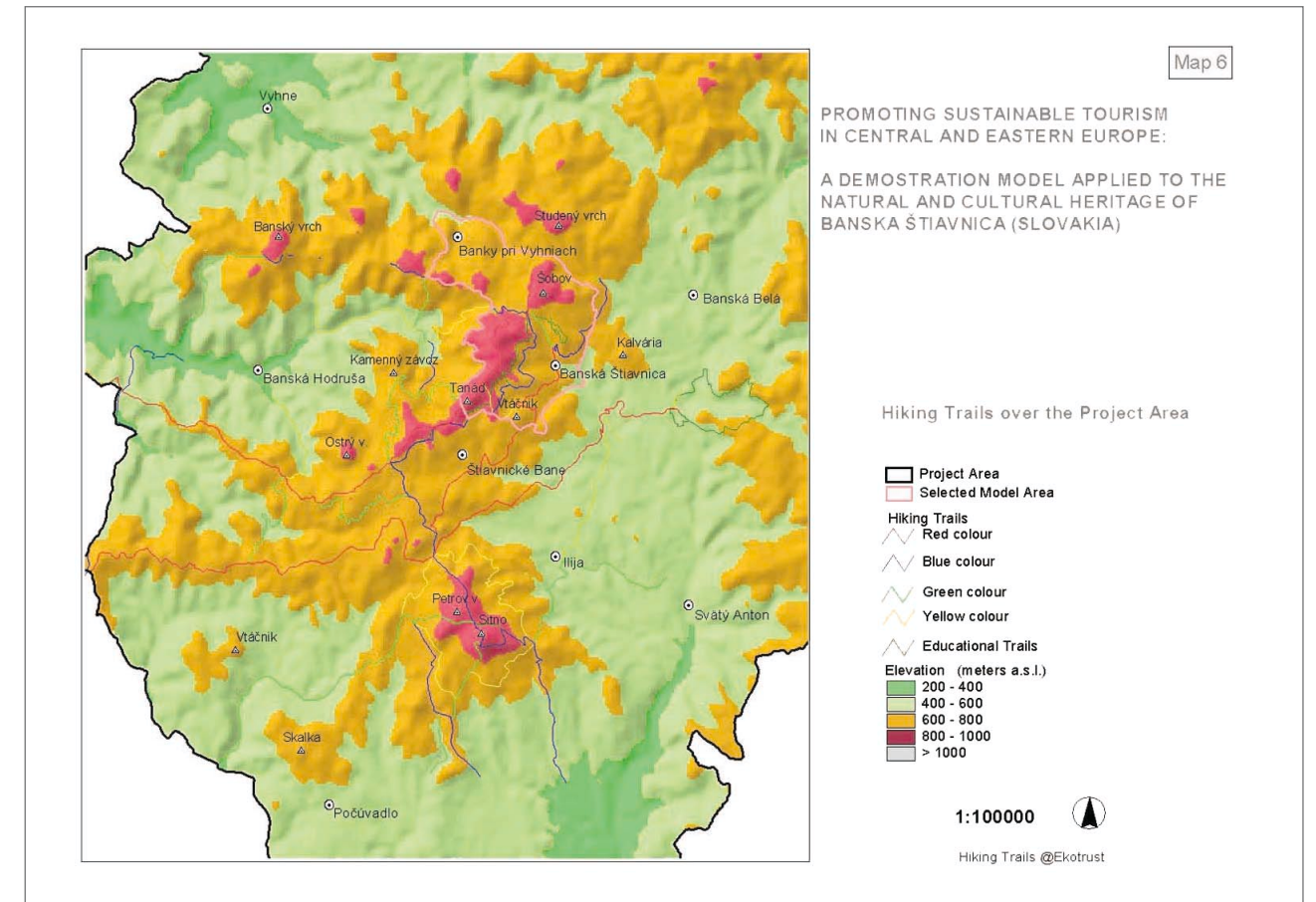
The policy and activities of the public institutions (local governments, state organisations, etc.) are vulnerable to future political changes.

The state-owned conservation office does not have enough resources (small number of employees and lack of finances). The money is not distributed properly, and financing of activities often lacks co-ordination.

- Restructuring of financing is required: tourism taxes should re-finance the tourism development. A satellite account for tourism should be established on both national and local (regional) levels. This measure would motivate the private businesses to participate more intensively in decision-making as well as in actual work in practice.
- Neither Slovakia nor the given region have a vision and strategy of development; therefore, it is required that the development priorities are defined (and so how to spend the existing resources). Tourism should definitely be included in this priority list.



2.0 BASELINE INFORMATION AND REVIEW



The level of knowledge and information about biodiversity and tourism is very different within the Slovak Republic. It depends on the resources (personal, technical, methodical and financial) and the interest of the institutions holding responsibility for tourism and biodiversity. In general, there is a good level of information about foreign tourism and the quantity of tourism in the Slovak republic and the different regions. This information is based on official data provided by travel agencies and lodging facilities. However, the knowledge on biodiversity issues is small due to the fact that the collection of data about ecosystems, and the research on different human and economic impacts and the changes in ecosystems are just in their first stage.

The several institutions, which are responsible for the management of biodiversity and nature protection, actually are very different provided with resources for the organisation of ecological information (capacity and technical). The nature protection organisations don't have enough

knowledge about existing information sources and documents in other departments or institutions. The exchange/demanding of information is organised in a very bureaucratic manner.

The priorities of the information collecting of the state nature protection organisations are not related on tourism issues. State nature protection organisations focus on obtaining information and data about subject of protection, not on the relations with another human activities like tourism.

Because of this reasons the protected area is not researched and known in an equal manner (from the nature protection point of view) – some areas/sites are researched well, some less. Therefore it is not possible to approach a comprehensive regional management of the nature protection.

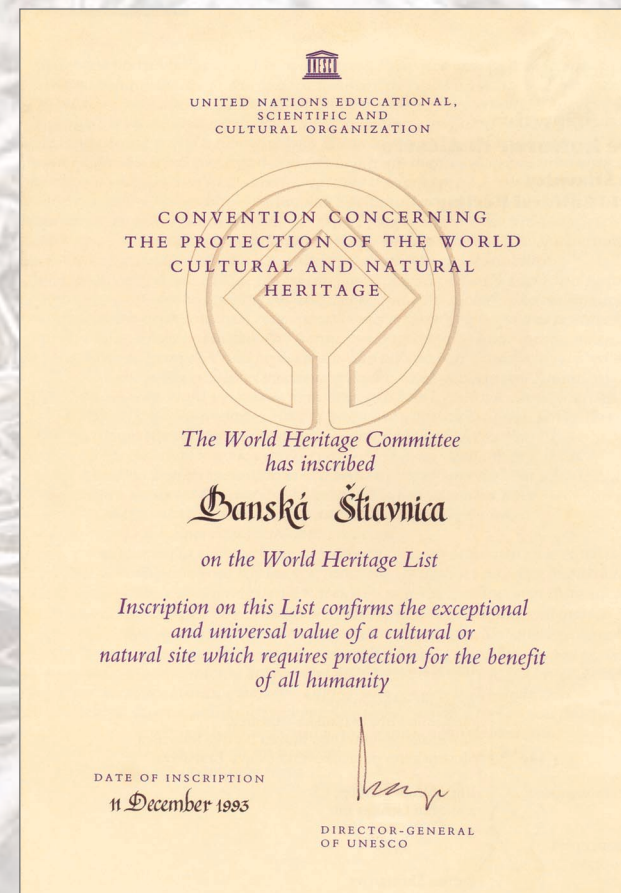
The Štiavnica Hills are very popular, in particular, amongst the domestic tourists. The existing data on tourism in the model area make clearly visible that

tourism concentrates mainly in summer time. However, there is considerable polarisation: large-scale tourism activities are highly concentrated in the centre of PLA. The most visited area is approximately determined by a rectangle of villages: Banská Bela - Banská Hodrusa – Kopanice – Dekys – Sv. Anton - Banský Studenec with Banská Štiavnica in the middle of the area. The area covers 80 km², one tenth of the PLA. The rest of the PLA, is actually little used for tourism development (except for Sklene Teplice and Vyhne served as health spa). The main activities of visitors are directed towards visitation of the town and attractions of the mining history (open air museum, channel system) and different recreational activities at the lakes and in the mountains (bathing, walking/hiking, biking). However the number of visitors in the town and over-night stays decreased in the last years.

Hiking trails, some of them educational with information panels, are an important part of the tourist infrastructure in the surroundings of the Sitno Mountain and the Pocuvadlo Lake. In 1996, there was a network of 60 marked trails with total length of 530 km in the entire area of the Stiavnické Vrchy Hills. In the model area exist one spa, several hot springs, some museums and galleries, ski lifts, hotels and restaurants. Despite the long tradition of tourism development, there is a lack of modern tourism infrastructure and services.

In the previous socialist politic system an extensive, and mostly illegal, construction of weekend houses in the lake surrounding was detrimental for the environment. After 1989, such constructions ceased due to decreases in the standard of living but both the existing constructions and tourist camps still attract many tourists. Tourists overcrowd the core segment of the region, especially in the summer season. Many public tourist paths are close to the nature reserves. Considerable damages to the environment, in particular, were caused by tourism development.

The PLA and SNC SR is now accumulating scientific information to help determine the carrying capacity of the Štiavnica Hills, and to establish different zones within the model area for management purposes, including zones where tourism of particular types is most suitable, and other zones, which should be free from tourism. However, the management of the protected landscape area has neither sufficient detailed information for the assessment of ecological and social-cultural impacts nor the capacity for such activities.



STRENGTHS

For the model area a large-scale of appropriate knowledge and information basis about ecosystems and their characteristic flora and fauna exists. The knowledge of the number of visitors, their interest and activities as well as the main visited places and attractions is based only on random observations. In general, the basic information for tourism impact assessment and management is available. However, the existing information and data have to be updated and completed by additional and site-specific research on a small scale for selected hot-spots.

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED

- There is no adequate framework to allow the exchange of information between the different institutions, and this prevents the integration of such knowledge in assessments of plans for tourism development, and in evaluations of the effects of existing tourism. A central co-ordination and compilation of the existing database does not exist. Therefore there is nearly no knowledge and information exchange between the different authorities.
- There is an absence of indicators to assess and monitor the ecological impact of tourism.

- There is no assessment of flora and fauna species, which can be used as indicators of the impact of the tourism activities – such information is necessary to assist in management actions to counteract any damage to biodiversity that may occur through tourism, and to adjust and plan tourism activities.
- More information is needed for all the planning levels and decision-making.

RECOMMENDED MEASURES

- Improve the ability of PLA to collect regularly the necessary information and data.
- Secure that information, data and know how which are known in other departments and/or abroad will not be collected again and foray.
- Improve the mutual communication among the stakeholders concerning the information collecting and exchange.
- Analyse existing plans and studies of the area, to extract the most important statements and include them into regional strategies.
- If we will find the really good project/plan/proposal cooperation one invite authors to collaborate.



3.0 ANALYSIS OF VISION AND GOALS

There is some interest to prepare a common vision and goals for tourism development in the area. In particular, some service providers in the private sector, and some municipalities, express a desire to prepare an integrated strategy for tourism in the area. Some service providers feel that it is time to develop some common activities to improve the situation and tourism environment. However, these are frequently only verbal presentations that are not followed by any practical steps that would support them.

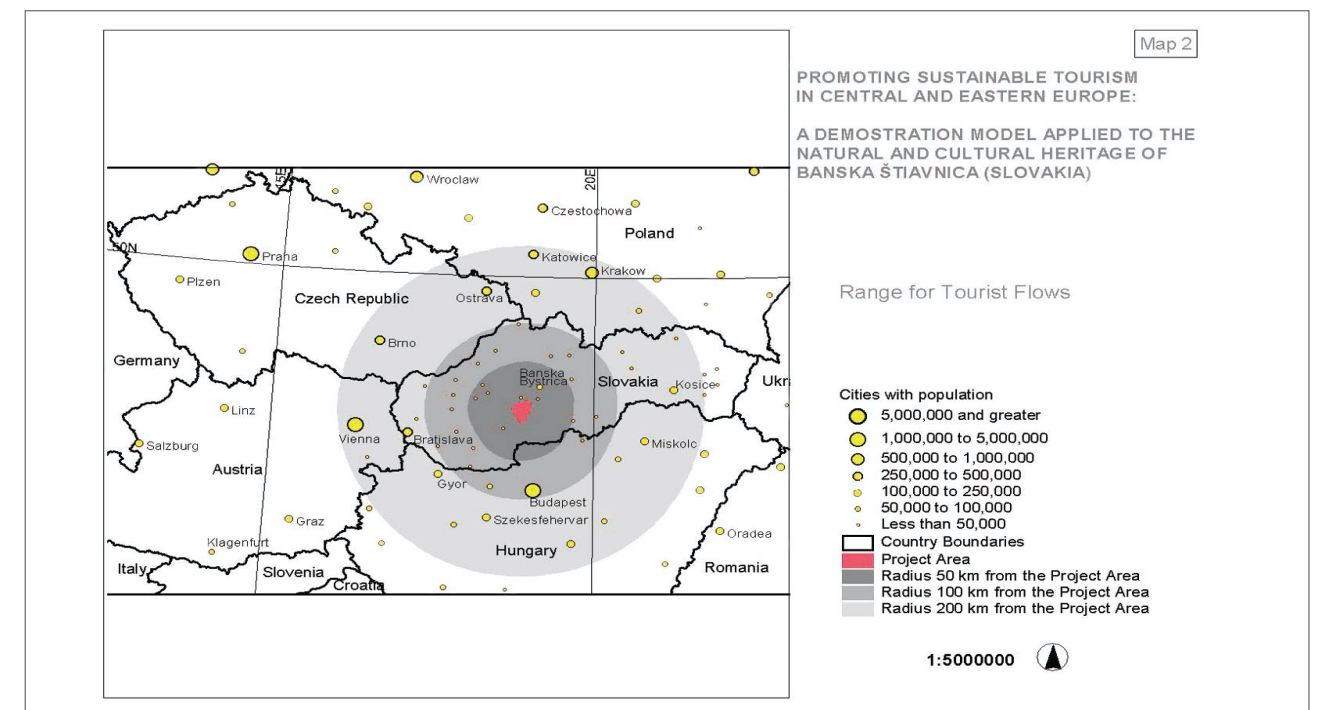
The need for a common vision and goals is not, however, widely accepted or understood. Amongst people generally, there is no awareness of the importance of establishing an overall vision for tourism and its role in development of the region. Some local people and organisations would prefer to work on their own to develop tourism, and are concerned that if more attention is paid to tourism development, opportunities for them to invest in tourism might be reduced.

Alongside the lack of an overall strategy for tourism, there is also a lack of knowledge regarding relation between tourism and other economic activities and biodiversity protection.

There is a need to raise public awareness on this, and to establish a basis for development programme/strategy, elaborated and widely discussed with local inhabitants. This will need to take place alongside the development of a commonly accepted overall strategy for regional development.

RECOMMENDED MEASURES

- Public hearings which will result in proposal of a set of principles (incl. vision) for sustainable development of tourism as basis for a council decision.
- A co-ordination group and a task force consisting of all stakeholders should be established, which has the possibility to take responsibility for the sustainable development of the area, especially regarding tourism and nature conservation. In this context it is also important to run an open-ended forum for all inhabitants as a basis for discussion on the relevant issues.



4.0 ANALYSIS OF OBJECTIVES

At the local and sub-regional level, no objectives have been defined, either regarding tourism or regional development. The EU accession of the Slovak republic drives authorities into achieving some useful objectives into national and regional plans and strategies:

The **National Strategy of the Sustainable Development** has been prepared under auspices of Ministry of Environment by wide team of experts. It determines the framework of development of Slovakia from point of view of sustainability. Slovak Government adopted the strategy in October 2001 as well as by National Council in April 2002, but it has a very weak position in the policies and activities of the different ministries generally. The National Strategy set up tourism as one of the main economy industries in Slovakia and determines how to develop it sustainable (see www.tur.sk).

The **National Biodiversity Strategy of Slovakia** adopted by Government in April 1997 and approved by National Council in August 1997 in its Goal 11 determines the impact of the strategy on tourism and the way of its implementation in Slovakia. It sets up the „basic directions“ of tourism development respecting the CBD guidelines. The strategy is developed into the National Action Plan (adopted by Government in 1998 with extra governmental financial support), nevertheless the implementation of the AP depends on the availability of financial recourses of the targeted sectors and the responsible institutions. However as far both documents are formally adopted and are formally binding, they justify the sustainable tourism development in Slovakia.



Government in 2000 has adopted the **National Program for Tourism Development**. The program sets-up the goals and the measures for the tourism development. In case that it would be supported also with some budget it could help concrete projects, however this topic is strongly underestimated by decision-makers.

The **National Plan of the Agricultural and Rural Development** sets-up the goals and measures eligible for the SAPARD implementation in Slovakia. One of the measures makes possible to use SAPARD support for tourism development in rural areas in a comprehensive way. Its implementation is expected in 2003. It is not very „strong“ measure, but will provide considerable financial support.

The **strategy of the tourism development in the Middle Hron Region** sets-up main direction of the tourism in region of Banská Štiavnica – Kremnica and was elaborated within the REDIS project by GHK Int., UK for Coordination Group of Middle Hron Region. The strategy is not implemented because it is not generally accepted (even presented) in region.

Some **regional projects** define additional objectives for tourism development: The project Geopark implemented by the sector of the Ministry of the Environment is developing a system of trails and points presenting the historical style of mining and the geological heritage. The Slovak Mining Museum is establishing a new exhibit of coal mining in Slovakia and the Slovak Biking Club – Hamrik works on preparing a system of biking trails. However, these particular objectives are not a part of a wider and generally accepted programme.



Despite of these spatial projects an overall strategy of tourism development in relation to the protection of biological diversity is missing. Moreover inter-linkages between the National Strategy for sustainable development and the other plans and action programmes at national or regional level are not known.

The institutions/stakeholders generally declare that it is important to have development objectives, but they underestimate this issue and do not pay enough attention to it in practical life. Various projects of the European Union provide effective tools for solving problems that appear in the field of nature and landscape conservation. Slovakia should make an effort to use these tools more intensively, e.g. the program LIFE-Nature, which co-finances the management of protected areas proposed to be included in the NATURA 2000 network.

The **National Development Plan (NDP)** identifies where the financial support from the EU structural funds should be directed. It is a mid-term document (valid until 2006, and then a new NDP will be developed) that defines the possibilities for use of EU structural funds in Slovakia.

Tourism is included in two operation programmes:

- **Sector Operation Programme for Industry and Services** – it determines that the money received from the EU structural funds in 2004 – 2006 may be used for building and renovating tourism infrastructure, supporting business activities in tourism, promoting tourism and developing information systems.
- **Sector Operation Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development** – it defines various areas of use of the given EU structural funds, areas that are not directly connected with tourism (e.g. reconstruction of objects, conservation of rural heritage, and the like). In the time of preparing this material, the Slovak Government was thinking of shifting these measures into the SOP for Basic Infrastructure.

Slovakia still can use the resources from the PHARE fund. Tourism is supported by a special grant program of this fund – The Grant Scheme for Tourism Development. Unfortunately, the experience from the previous two rounds of the grant scheme indicate that these resources again will not be used in compliance with the principles of sustainable development and biodiversity protection.



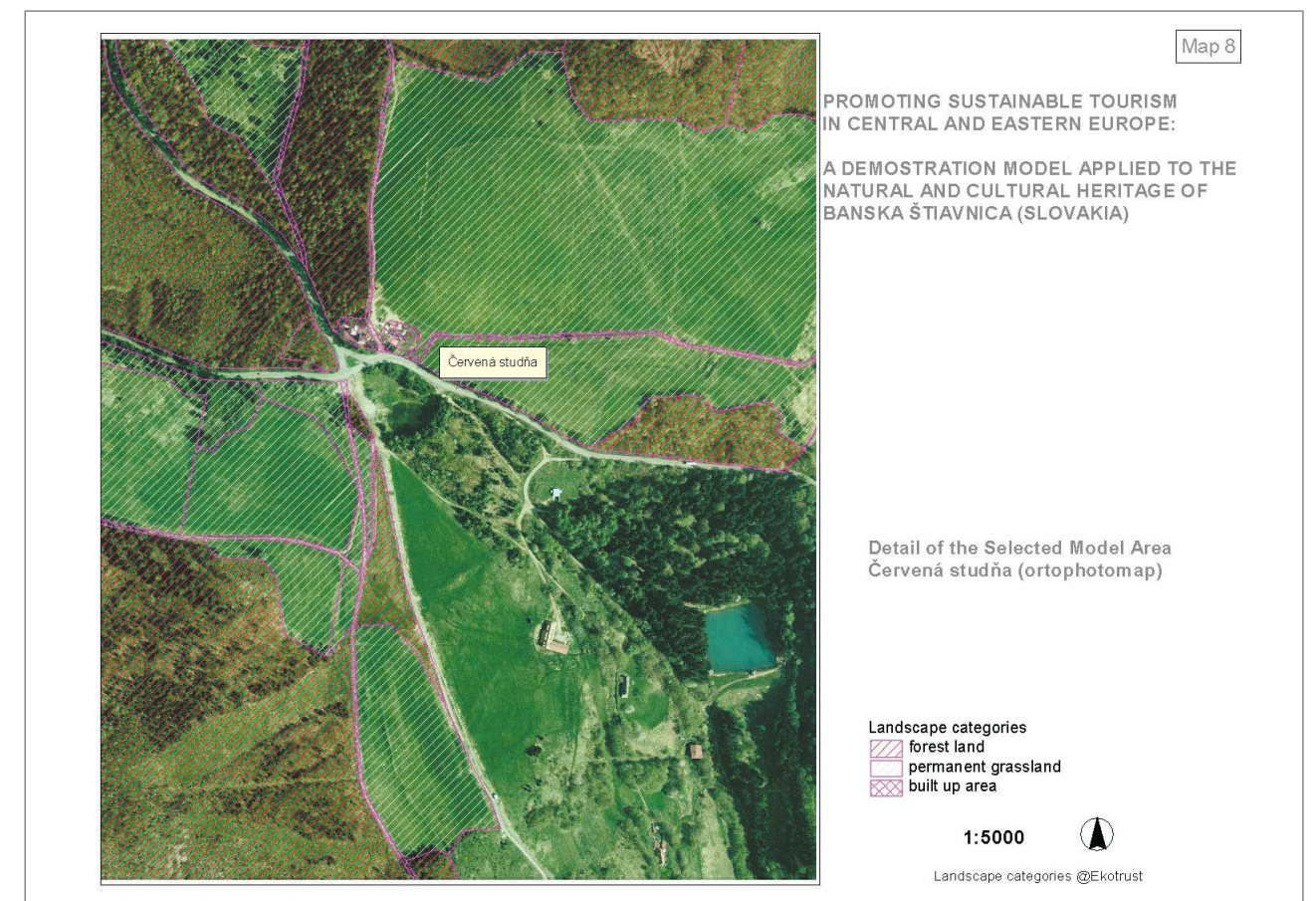
5.0 REVIEW OF LEGISLATION AND CONTROL MEASURES

There is a number of legal rules and regulations that apply to tourism development and biodiversity protection.

The following ones are among the most important:

- The Law on the Nature and Landscape Protection (543/2002) respects all directives of EU for nature (species and habitats) including a new system of the management within and outside of protected areas as well as compensation tools for nature management. It also establishes a regulative measures for tourist development inside of protected areas and targeted habitats. According this law state has to reimburse the property detriment caused by the nature protection. The may lead to the consequence that the state will be cautious in establishing new protected areas and will eventually reduce existing ones. Therefore it will be possible to concentrate the effort and sources for the protection of the most valuable part of nature by setting priorities in nature protection.

- The local territorial **system of ecological stability** (USES) was prepared for the region of Banská Štiavnica in 2002. At regional level it already exists. USES justifies the nature protection (the subject of protection) and identifies the elements of ecological stability in the landscape (e.g. biocorridors, etc.). It is also one of the essential documents used in the process of zoning plan development.
- The **Landscape-ecological plan** (KEP) was for the territory of Banská Štiavnica completed in 2002. LEP identifies the optimal spatial disposition and functional use of land. It is also one of the essential documents used in the process of zoning plan development.

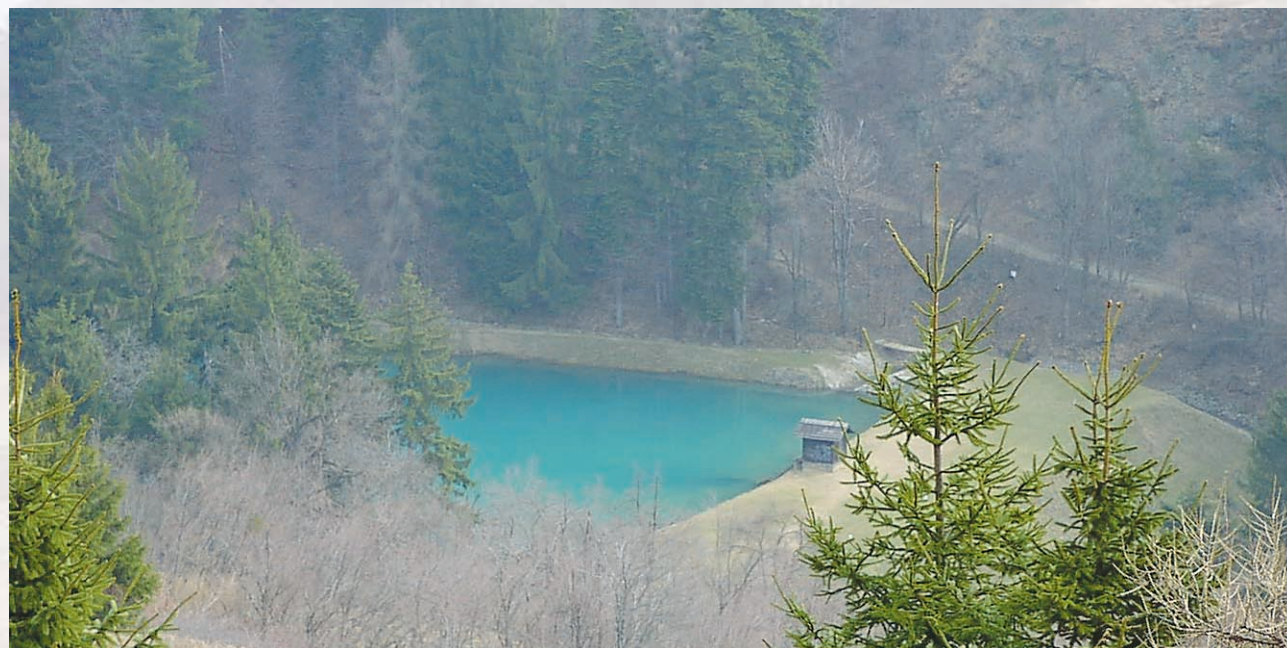


- The new zoning plan which determines the land use on the regional level is under preparation. It is based also on the USES and KEP therefore it secures that regulations and recommendations incorporated in USES and KEP must be obligatory for decision making (as far regional plan is obligatory).

There is no special legislation devoted to tourism development. Relevant are the laws that determine the general framework for business (e.g. Small Business Code, Tax Code, etc.) and for various economic activities in the given territory (e.g. Construction Law, Monument Protection Law, etc.)

Some principles for the work of travel agencies are stated in law No. 281/2001. However, this law is not directly connected with tourism development; sometimes it is even considered to be too limiting for starting small local tour-operator services. Since the law is unclear, it has a discouraging effect on doing legal business in tourism.

Tourism is also supported by loan programs in the sector of the Ministry of Economy – Micro-loan Program and Promotion Credit Program. However, similarly as in the grant-making scheme (see above), these programs do not respect the principles of sustainable tourism.



The project area has been partially inscribed on the List of World Heritage, and thus is part of the highest degree of international protection for cultural heritage. An obligatory priority for all development goals should be the protection of cultural heritage. Meeting these agreed obligations is currently problematic for the state administrations, as there is no systematic co-operation between different levels of responsibility at national and local level as well with the UNESCO.

From this point of view, mainly the Monument Protection Law and Construction Law are important. These laws set limits and procedures that pursue the interest of cultural heritage protection and that need to be respected in zone planning, building and renovating.

A specific rule is the Code 100/2002 on Protection and Development of Banská Štiavnica and its surrounding. In this code, the principles of the protection of Banská Štiavnica are defined (from practical point of view, it applies to tourism as well), however, this code is quite general and not standard because in the case of its violation, the possible sanctions are not defined in it. In addition, this code is not too respected by the municipal government, thus its impact is minimal.

STRENGTHS

Slovakia is developing the comprehensive legal framework to enhance the nature protection and sustainable development (new law on the nature and landscape protection as well as NATURA 2000 is under preparation, Strategy of sustainable development is accepted). Slovak republic joined and implemented most of the international and European agreements and standards concerning the preservation of nature and its elements.

There is a strong feeling that the legal framework for tourism development is necessary.

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED

- The situation is influenced by various legal and administrative problems, for example:
 - overlap of powers and authority between different institutions, which can cause duplication of efforts or even lead to a lack of action by any of the institutions;
 - divided legislative responsibilities and missing co-operation can lead to non-consistent legislation; and
 - the continuation of some tourism projects which have failed to comply with legal requirement during their establishment – their illegal situation undermines the image and weakens the efficiency of the institutions.
- The power of the existing laws, in spite of having sound and appropriate legislation, is not too strong because of the low human and financial capacity for their enforcement. The situation is also influenced by political and group interests and by corruption.

- The existing regulations and frameworks do not reflect the necessity for a common management approach to tourism development and biodiversity protection. This results in situations in which tourism development is uncontrolled and may develop illegally, without any consideration of the environmental and conservation impacts. In addition such situations and illegal developments undermine the power of administration.
- There are no financial incentives to give priority to the development of tourism projects in accordance to environmental criteria, which makes it hard to involve and work with the private sector.

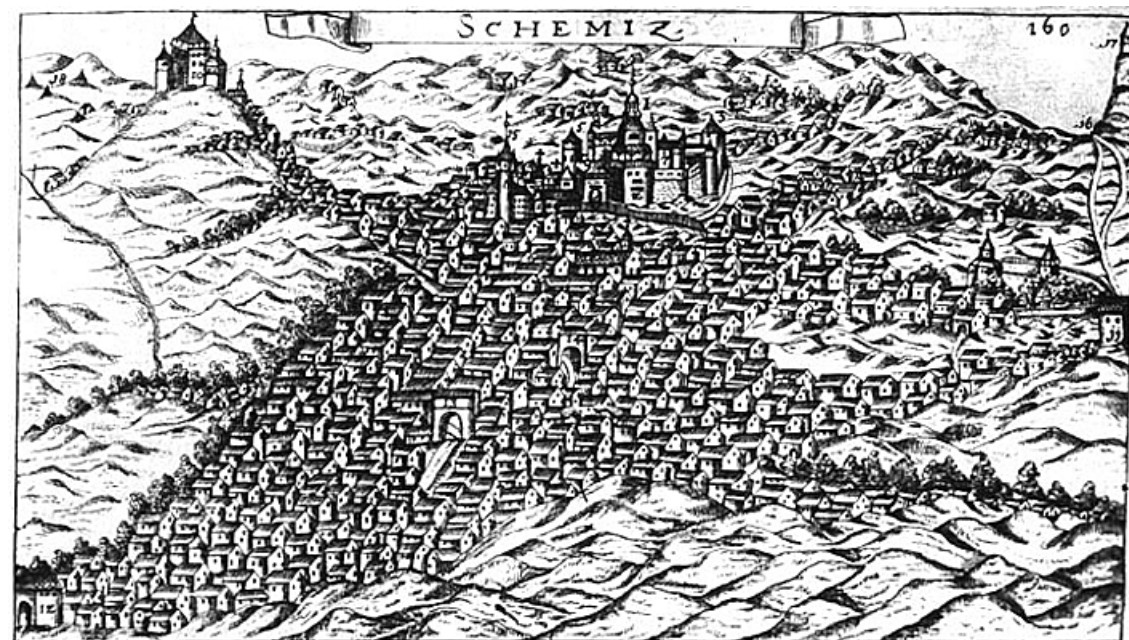
RECOMMENDED MEASURES

- Elaboration a new law on tourism based for example of the Austrian tourist law.
- It is necessary to increase the effectiveness and enforcement degree of the legislation related to cultural and natural heritage protection.
- More effective expert participation in law preparation.
- Higher involvement of local/regional stakeholders and decision-makers (e.g. water- and forest-managers, tourism developers, civil society, etc.).
- More intensive co-operation among the ministries of economy, environment and agriculture (due forestry and water management); establishment of an inter-ministerial steering committee.
- To develop the set of the principles that should be basic for new legislation and decisions or/and adjusting of existing one.

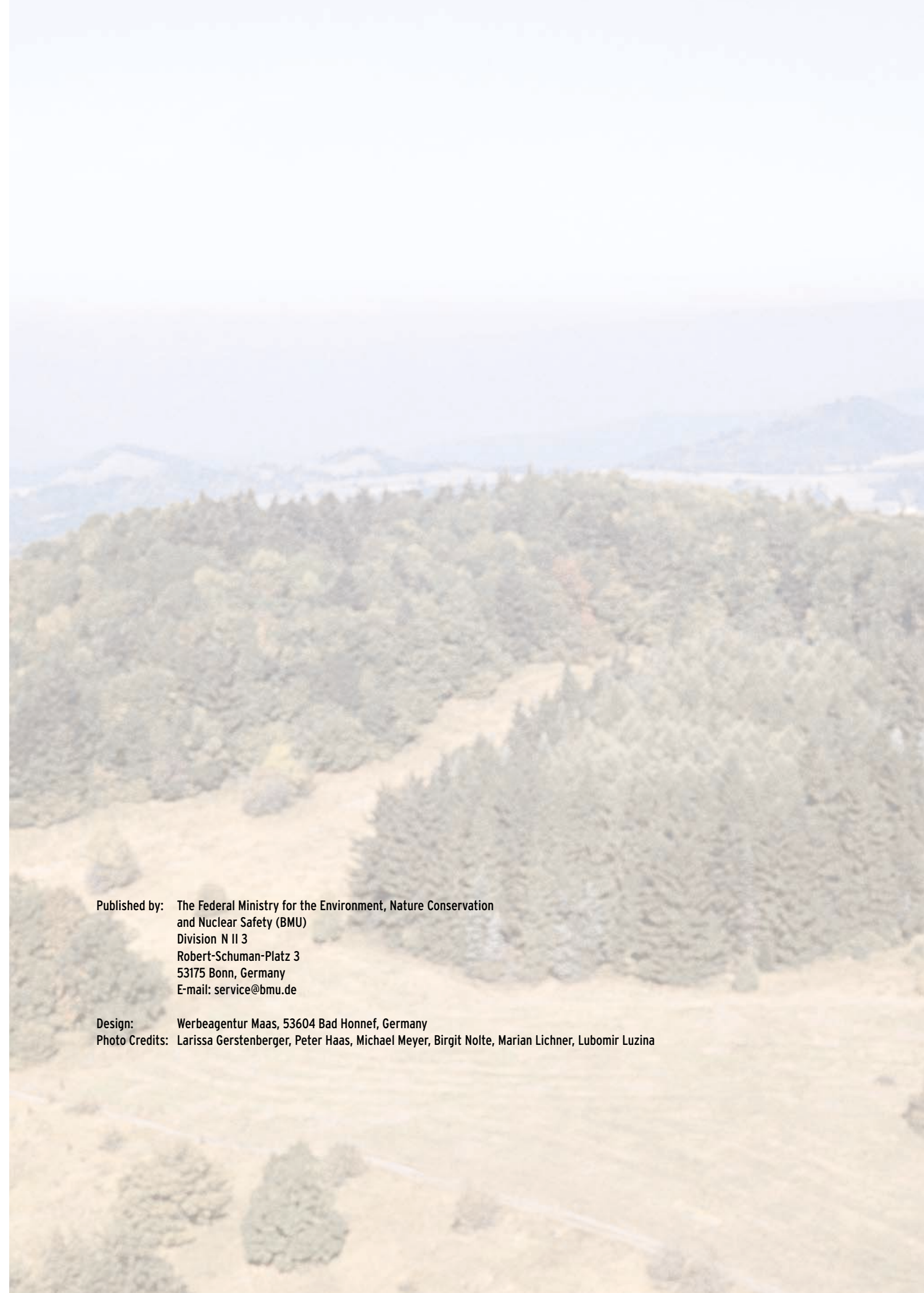
6.0 ANALYSIS OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Law No. 127 on environmental impact assessment has been in effect in Slovakia since 1994. This law is fully compatible with EU legislation and procedures. The technical guidelines how to use this act for several principles (e.g. buildings and construction, mass activity outside of selected space – sports, cultural movements...) were prepared. The Slovak Republic is an active member of ESPOO Convention on the transboundary impact assessment. Projects that dealt with tourism have so far made up approximately 4% of the total number of evaluated projects.

The State is preparing for implementing NATURA 2000. Last year, a new amendment to the Code on Nature and Landscape Protection has been adopted, with a full acceptance of both EU directives on birds and habitats protection including establishing of NATURA 2000 Network after joining to EU. There is a special financial support from state budget for these activities and including of an international sponsoring made by Dutch Government via MATRA Program and Denmark Program DANCEE DEPA.



1. Il Castello. 2. Un bastione con 3 pezzi di cannoni. 3. Una rondella con un pezzo di cannoni. 4. Il campanile. 5. La torre della polvere sotto la quale sta l'Arsenale. 6. Porta del Castello. 7. Quartiere del Comandante. 8. Quattro Rondelle piccole contenenti. 9. Due fiamme. 10. Il castello nuovo. 11. Porta de Creniz. 12. Porta di Krepfen. 13. Porta appresso il Cortile della Camera. 14. Porta per entrar nella Città. 15. Casa del Publico. 16. Strada verso Nien. 17. Casuccia per la guardia. 18. Le miniere d'argento.



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