

Management of national park directorates in Hungary, land purchase

SK-HU Working Group on Nature
Conservation and Landscape
Protection

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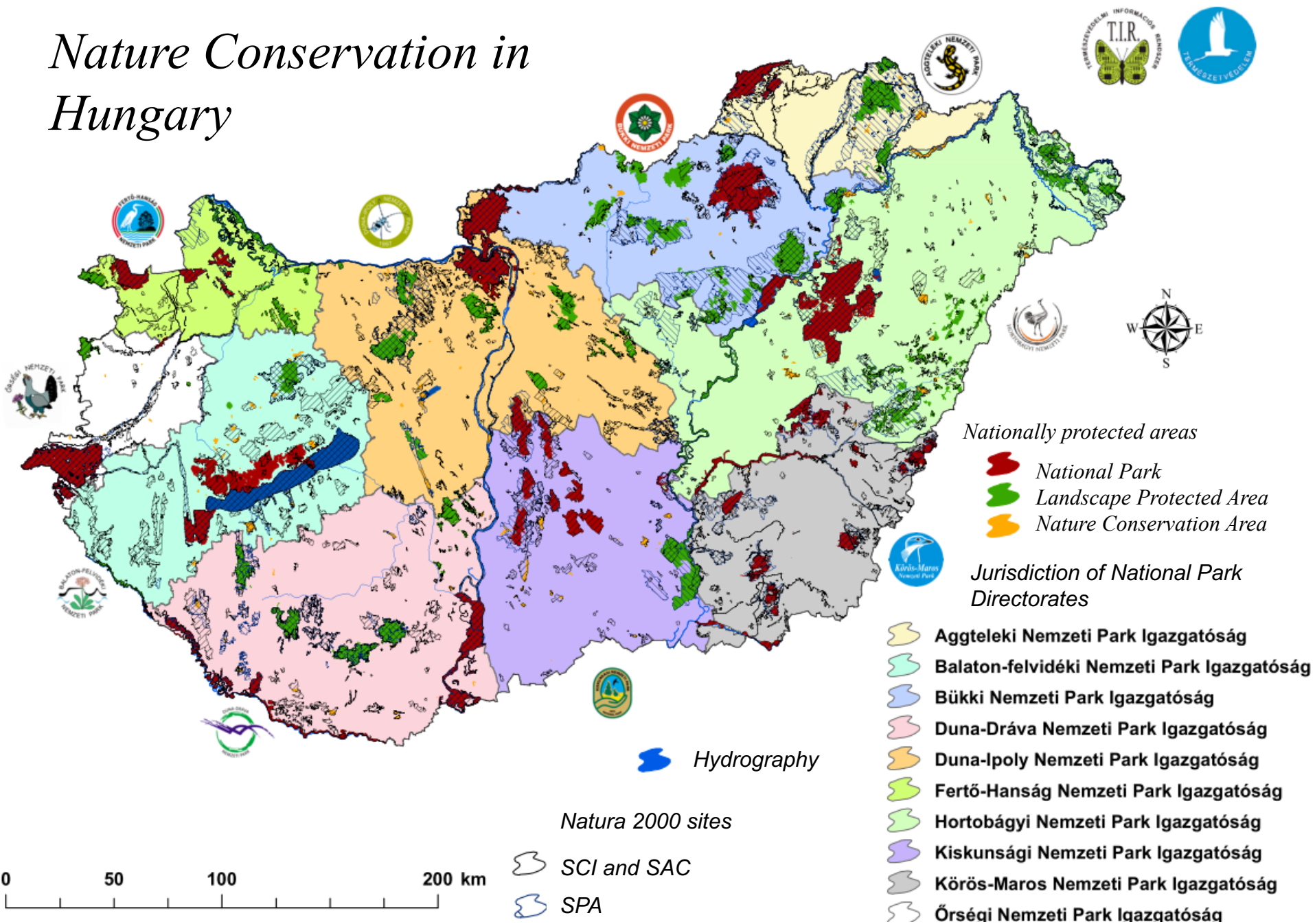
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Nature Conservation in Hungary





State organizations of nature conservation in Hungary - national

The Ministry of Agriculture

- Top governmental organization in Environment and Nature Protection.
- Responsible for two main sectors: environment protection and nature conservation.
- Supervisory authority and professional coordinator of the national park directorates.



State organizations of nature conservation in Hungary - regional

Based on Government Decree 71/2015, the National Park Directorates (NPD) are

- Responsible for the management of protected areas (such as national parks, landscape protection areas and protected areas, Natura 2000 sites) in terms of nature conservation and nature management.
- First degree authorities in certain offences against provisions of laws in nature conservation.
- Regional Ranger Offices are integral parts of NPDs.
- Property management of 33% of the protected areas.



State organizations of nature conservation in Hungary - regional

Based on Government Decree 71/2015, the National Park Directorates (NPD)

- assist in the preparation of district forest plans and game management plans
- carry out nature conservation research
- maintain and restore habitats
- collect nature conservation data and run monitoring of protected natural areas and assets and maintain their database



State organizations of nature conservation in Hungary - regional

Based on Government Decree 71/2015, the National Park Directorates (NPD)

- assist in forest protection
- assist in the protection of non-protected flora and fauna (game and non-protected fish species, domesticated animal and plant varieties,
- give an opinion on spatial development plans
- co-operate with bodies responsible for the protection of cultural heritage
- support local governments in their nature conservation tasks



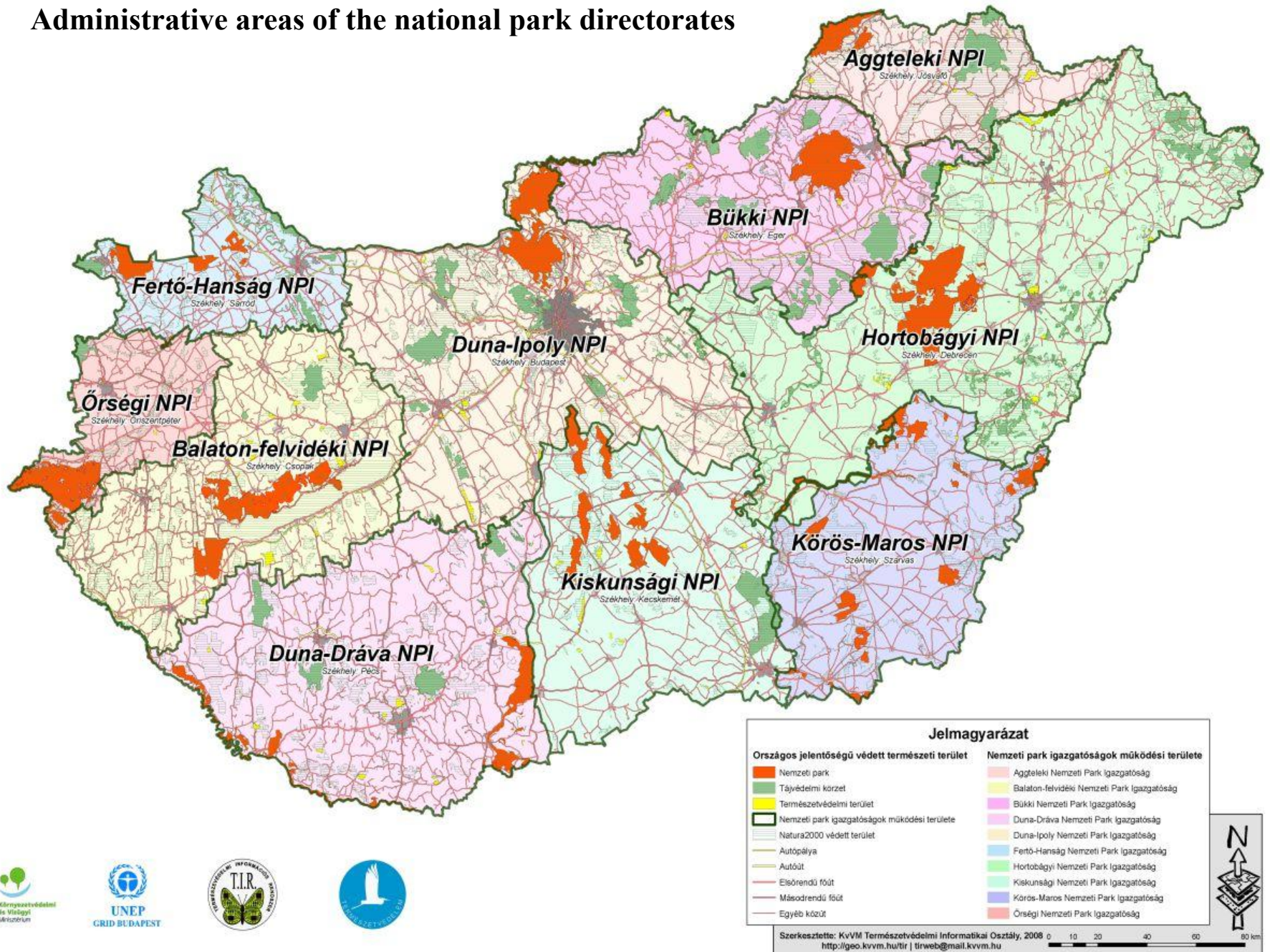
NPD – green authority relations



- First instance authority at county level (19 counties)
- Authorities are subordinated to the Prime Minister's Office, professional supervision by other ministries (such as Ministry of Agriculture)
- NPDs support the authorities with data and professional opinion
- Regular thematic meetings organised for environmental departments of authorities and national park directorates together



Administrative areas of the national park directorates



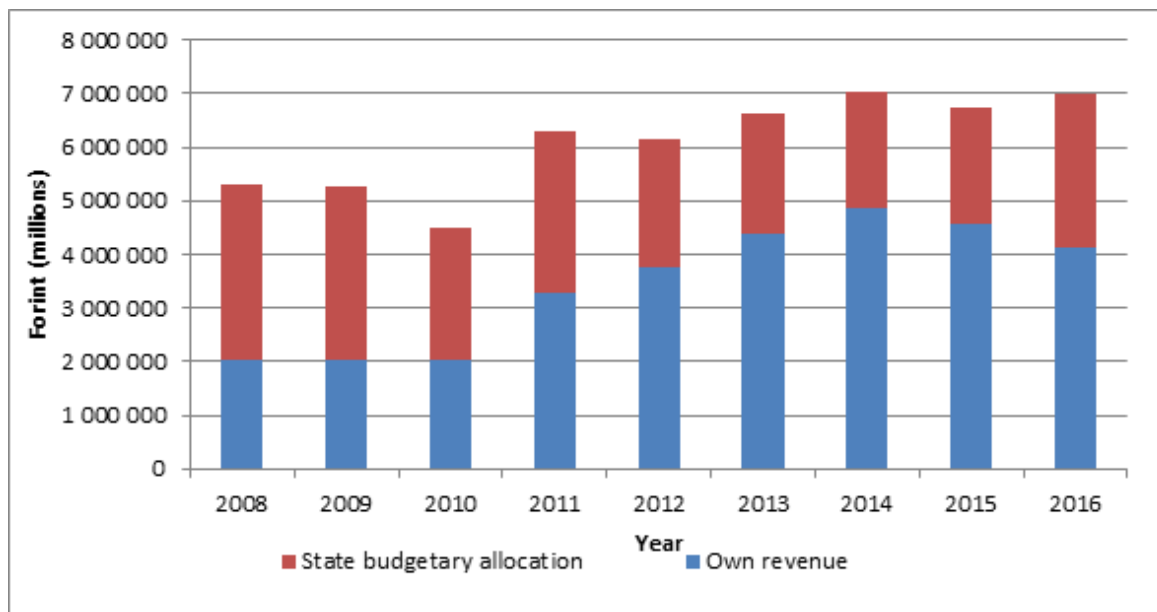


Budget of NPDs

excerpts from the 2018 OECD report

The budget for National Park Directorates has increased since 2008 (**24.4%**), with a significant portion (almost 60%) sourced from their own revenues (4.1 billion HUF in 2016). The directorates generate revenue from the use of protected land for environmentally-friendly farming, including crops and livestock, as well as ecotourism. *The income of the national parks from agri-environmental subsidies heavily declined since 2014, as the rules of eligibility in case of the direct payments (I. pillar of the CAP) have been modified. As a counterbalance to this, the Hungarian government increased the amount available for NPDs from the state budget.* National Park Directorates also significantly benefit from the EU LIFE programme that co-finances specific projects.

Financial sources of the national park directorates between 2008 and 2016





Nature conservation indemnification



(Earmarked budgetary resource
managed by the Ministry of Agriculture)
excerpts from the 2018 OECD report

The resource finances

- the nature conservation indemnification for the proprietor
- monitoring of protected natural assets and areas
- the elaboration and implementation of management actions.

The authorized organizations for the support are national park directorates and governmental bureaus.

The resource finances also the land purchases for increasing the territories of State property.

Summary table of nature conservation indemnification

Year	HUF (altogether)	HUF (without land purchase)
2014	1.553.727	103.727.000
2015	1.550.000	550.000.000
2016	1.200.000	550.000.000



Management planning of nationally protected areas

excerpts from the 2018 OECD report

Legal management plans (coming into force by ministerial decrees) aim at the effective management of nationally protected areas.

While in 2008, 45 of total 211 nationally protected areas (34 808,70 hectares) had legal management plan, in 2016 180 of total 307 protected areas (60 061,32 hectares) had a legal management plan.

In addition to the 180 areas mentioned above 64 protected areas had a management plan documentation without legislative announcement in 2016.



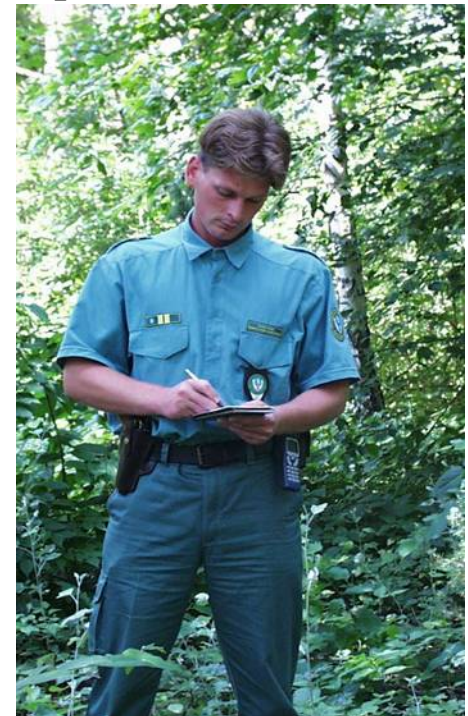
National Park Staff

excerpts from the 2018 OECD report



The Hungarian national park directorates had 693 employees between 2008 and 2010; since 2011 there are 719 employees. Compared to 2008, the number of the employees increased by 11% by 2016.

As part of these figures, there were 202 rangers in 2007, 243 rangers in 2011, and there are 252 rangers working for the national park directorates in 2016. Consequently, the operational field of one ranger currently covers 372 km² in average, out of which 34 km² is protected area and 79 km² Natura 2000 area.





The Hungarian Ranger Service



- The Ranger Service was established 40 years ago
- Rangers are civil servants since 1992, officials with a broad range of competence since 1998.
- The Ranger Service is incorporated into the organization of the National Park Directorates.
- Rangers are equipped with uniforms and service weapons – in order to conserve, protect and prevent damage to natural assets and areas, in particular protected natural assets and areas, as well as archaeological sites and finds.

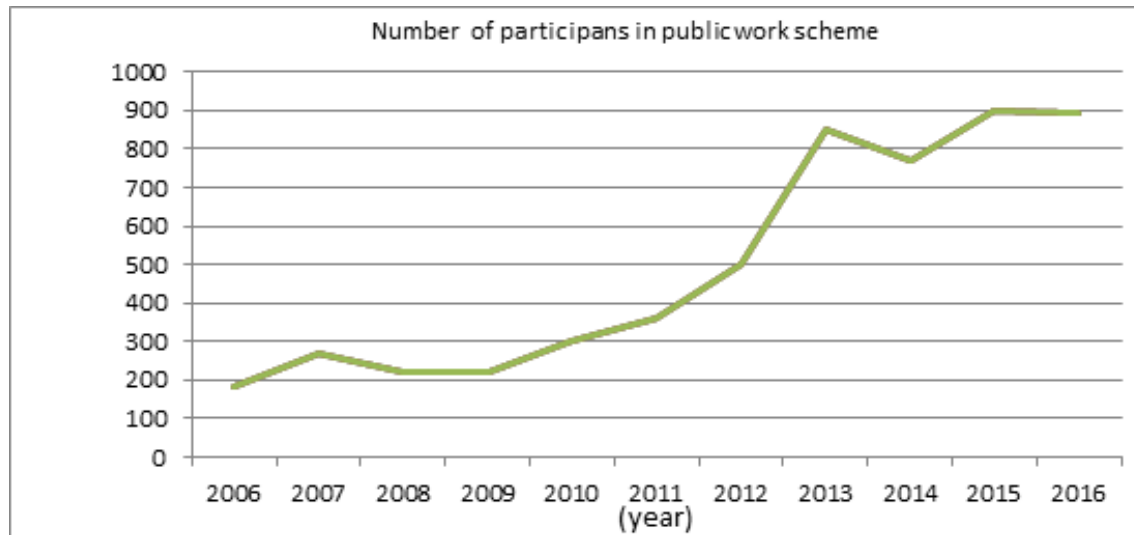




National Public Work Scheme

The public work scheme is a special form of employment, as this legal relationship is somewhat different from primary labour market employment. The activities performed in these programmes may vary on a large scale, including nature conservation management at national park directorates, such as nature management of grasslands and forests, eradication of invasive and allergenic plants, cleaning of illegal waste disposal sites in protected areas, maintenance of ecotourism buildings, and maintenance of nature conservation demonstration paths. Financial contributions to the programme include grants from the Ministry of Interior.

Changes in the number of participants in national public work scheme between 2006 and 2016





Land purchase



- Act XCIII of 1995 on Restoration of the Protection Level of Protected Areas
- Aim: repurchase protected lands in private ownership which were subject to the privatization process following the change of regime. Total area concerned: 250.000 ha, present deadline: 12/31/2018.
- Restoration means: repurchase or expropriation

	available source (billion HUF)	purchased area (ha)
1996-2004	6,5	150.000
2010-2016	6,7	8.900
needs for future	needed funding (billion HUF)	to be purchased (ha)
2017-2018	158 (2017: 0.65)	71.000

National park directorates have right of preemption on any land purchase in the name of the State related to protected areas



Thank you for your attention!

