
WETLANDS AND WETLAND POLICY IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION IN SLOVAKIA

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State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Banská Bystrica

National instruments

- Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection
- Decree No. 24/2003, by which the Act is executed

Act on nature conservation

- definition of wetlands
 - mires, wetlands... - important landscape element
 - general conservation, habitats protection, species protection
 - Territorial System of Ecological Stability – public interest
 - specific paragraphs on spatial protection, levels of protection – permissions required
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National instruments

- Act No. 364/2004 Z. z. on waters
protection of surface waters and groundwater, including water dependent ecosystems, sustainable use of water, river basin management, floods and droughts mitigation

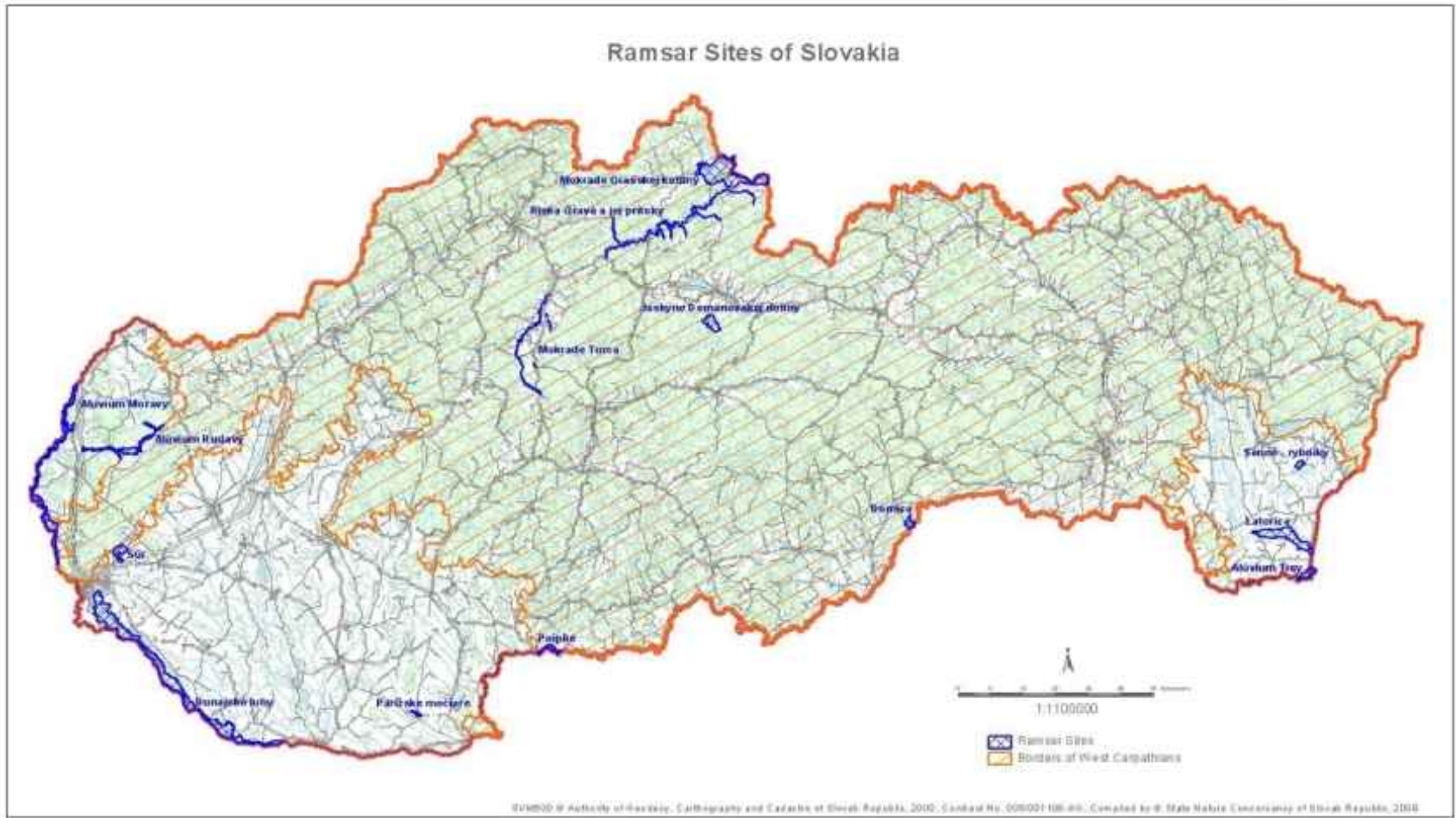
National strategies and policies

- National strategic plan for rural development
 - National Sustainable Development Strategy of SR (2001)
 - Action Plan for Sustainable Development 2005-2010
 - National Environmental Action Programme of SR II
 - Water Management Policy of SR until 2015
 - Nature and Landscape Conservation Policy
 - Partial Monitoring System Biota, PMS Water
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Ramsar sites in Slovakia



14 sites, 6 in the Carpathian region



Programme of Wetland Conservation and management in Slovakia

- **First developed for 1994-1996**
- **Updated for 2008-2014** (Decision of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 848 of 3 October 2007)
- **Ramsar Strategic Plan as a framework**

Four strategic goals:

1. Sustainable use of wetlands
 2. Management of wetlands of international importance
 3. Development of international cooperation
 4. Capacity building for implementation of the Ramsar Convention
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Action Plan for 2008-2011 to the updated Programme of Wetland Conservation and Management in Slovakia

- Objective 1.1. Establish database on wetlands and ensure its updates
 - Objective 1.2. Develop, review, adjust and implement national and regional legislative tools, institutions and practices, respectively propose improvements in legislation for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands
 - Objective 1.3. Increase public awareness on wetlands and their functions and role in water resources management, flood prevention, agricultural production, cultural heritage protection, with focus on less represented types of wetland ecosystems
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Action Plan for 2008-2011 to the updated Programme of Wetland Conservation and Management in Slovakia

- Objective 1.4 Integrate strategies on conservation and sustainable use of wetlands into planning and decision making processes on national, provincial and local levels, dealing with land use planning, ground water management, river basin management – in a context of the Integrated Water Resources Management
 - Objective 1.5. Identify priority wetlands for which restoration would be beneficial and from which there would be a long-term environmental, social or economic benefit, and realize necessary measures for restoration of these sites
 - Objective 1.6. Develop guidelines and promote activities to prevent expansion, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland ecosystems
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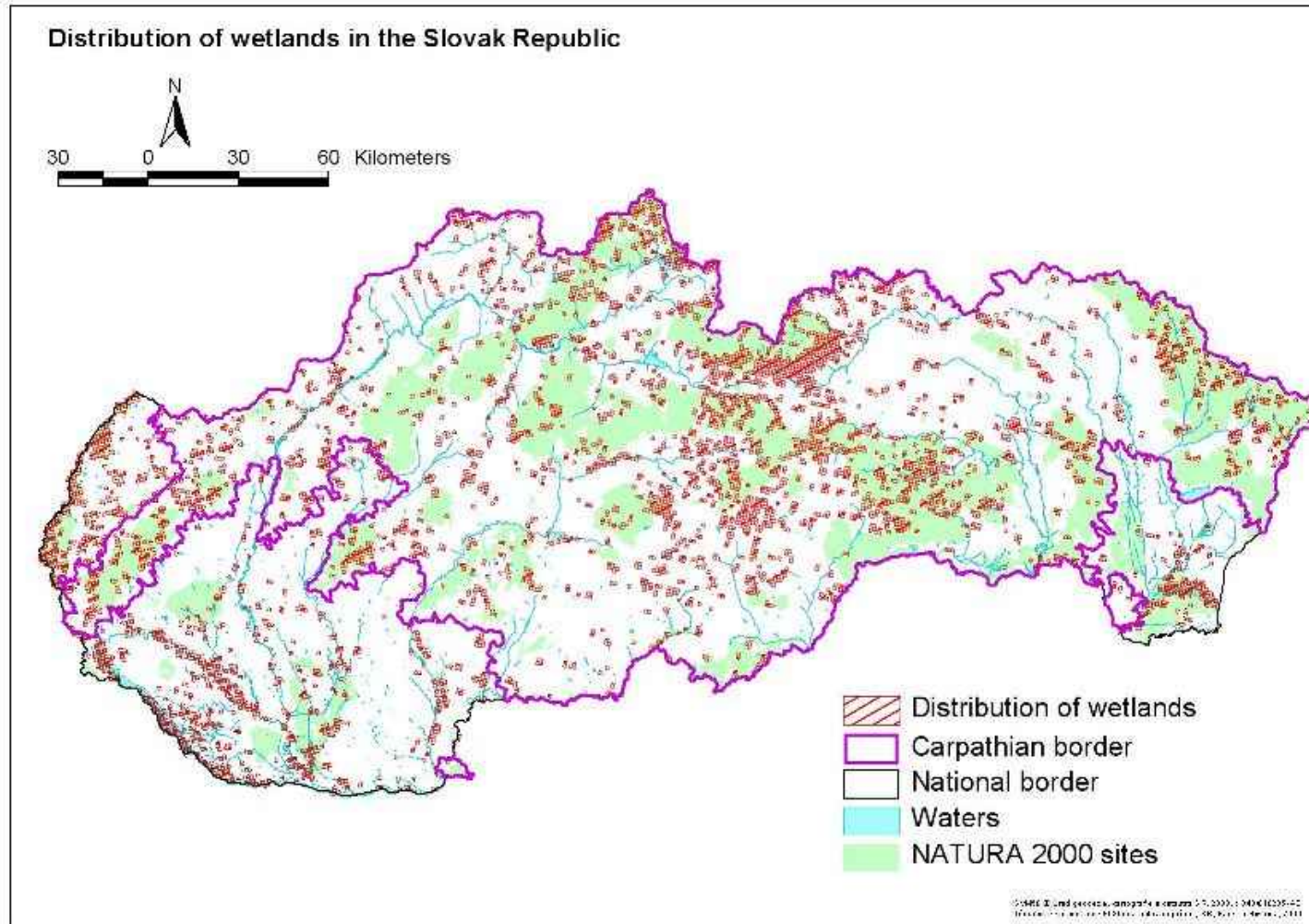
Action Plan for 2008-2011 to the updated Programme of Wetland Conservation and Management in Slovakia

- Objective 2.1. Use the Strategic framework and guidance for future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance when developing new proposals for Ramsar sites, regularly update and complete Ramsar Information Sheets with available information
 - Objective 2.2. Maintain ecological character of Ramsar sites and other sites of international importance
 - Objective 1.3. Monitor conditions in Ramsar sites and without delay, in line with Article 3.2 of the Ramsar Convention, to inform the Ramsar Secretariat on all changes which might have effects to the Ramsar sites and to use Montreux Record and the Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools for solving serious problems in the Ramsar sites
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Action Plan for 2008-2011 to the updated Programme of Wetland Conservation and Management in Slovakia

- **Objective 3.1.** Support existing regional initiatives within the Ramsar Convention
 - Objective 3.2. Provide for effective coordination with other international and regional multilateral environmental agreements and agencies, exchange of experience and information and harmonization of management and reporting systems of various conventions and neighbouring countries
 - Objective 4.1. Support active participation of local and provincial self-government, land owners, land users, private sector and other stakeholders in conservation and sustainable use of wetlands
 - Objective 4.2 Identify training needs of organizations and individuals concerned with wetlands conservation and wise use and support cooperation between them
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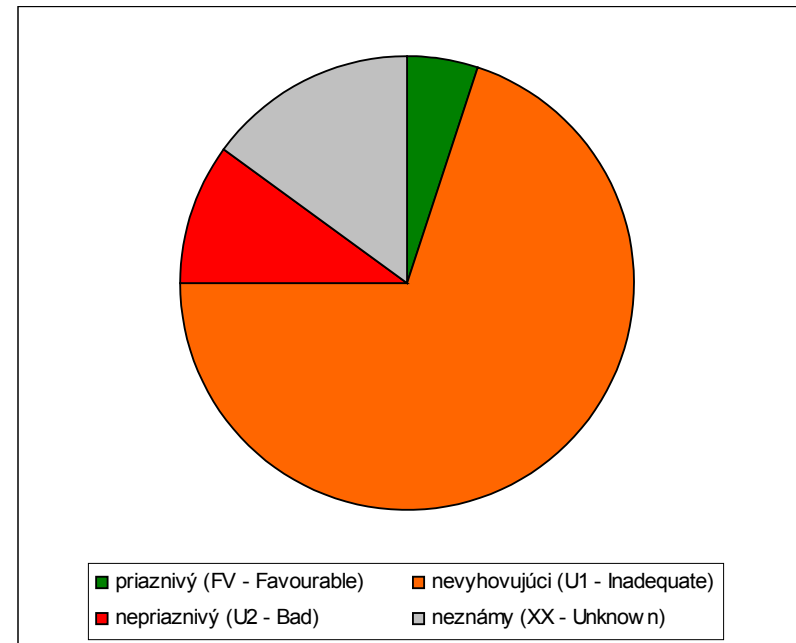
Distribution of wetland types of Natura 2000 habitats in Slovakia



Wetland and riverine Natura 2000 habitat types in the Alpine biogeographical region of Slovakia (Report Art. 17 HD)

- 21 habitat types
- 16 408 ha total
 - of which 14 013 ha – forest (floodplain forests, forested peatland)
 - 249 ha grassland
 - 518 ha aquatic and riverine
 - 25 ha salt meadows/marshes

Status of habitats according to numbers



Overall assessment of conservation status of habitats

Assessed 4 parameters:

Range / Area / Structure and Functions / Future prospects

FV - Favourable	1	67,43 ha
U1 - Inadequate	14	93,58 ha
U2 - Bad	2	0,7 ha
XX - Unknown	3	2,37 ha

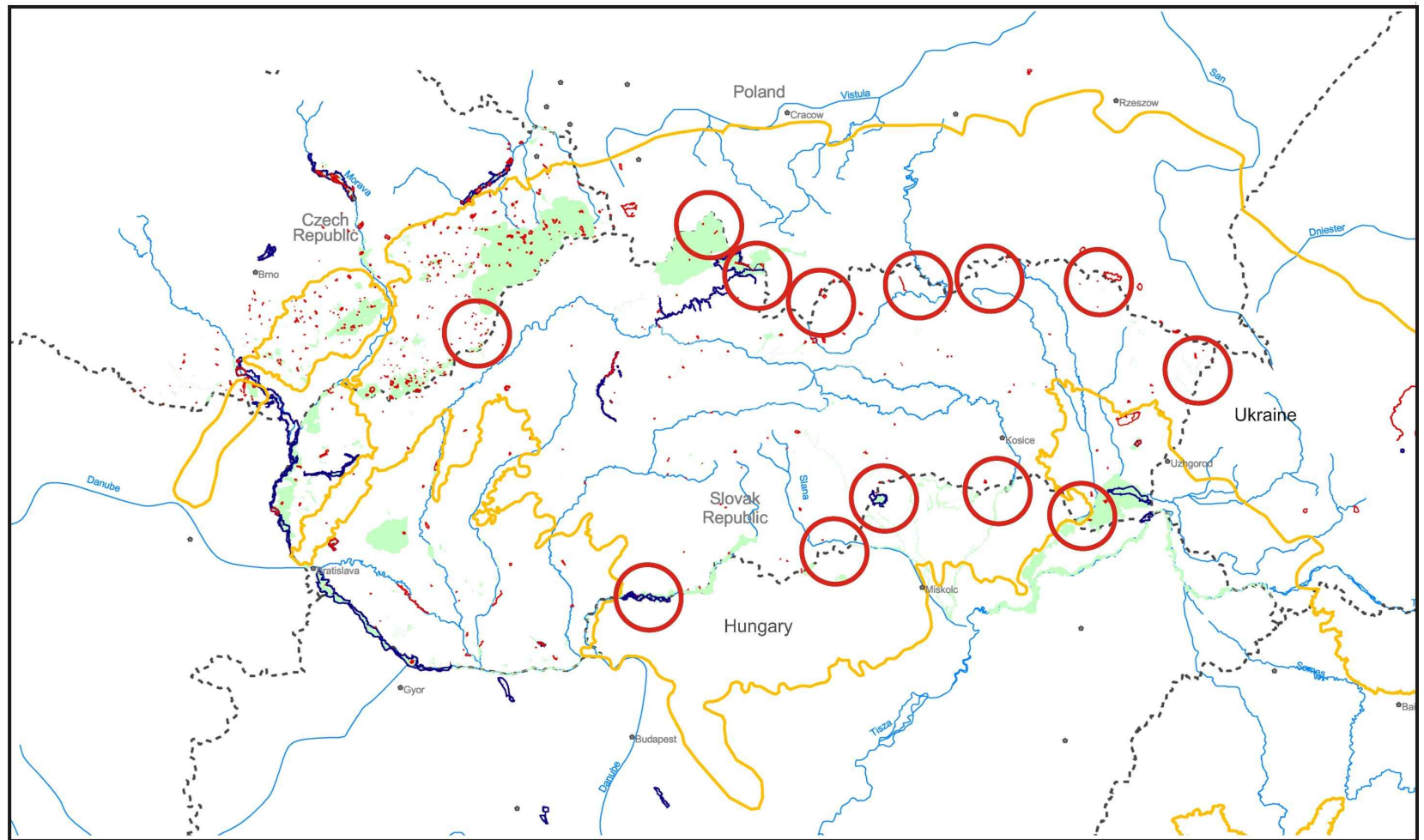
Threats

- Infrastructure development, urbanization
 - Lack of management, overgrowing of non-forest habitats
 - Hydropower plants and dams construction
 - River bed reclamation, technical flood prevention measures
 - Climate change – water regime
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„Providing for wetlands management in Slovakia, increasing of public awareness on wetlands and capacity building“

- State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic – 2009-2012 – Operational Programme Environment
- Management plans for selected Ramsar/N2000 sites
- Wetlands inventory and database
- Guidelines for management and restoration of wetlands of international importance
- Establishment and support of information centres
- Information and publicity
- Training and education programme for public and stakeholders
- Information and promotion materials
- Film production
- Capacity building of SNC staff – training on management planning
- European regional meeting on management of N2000 sites

Transborder wetlands



Challenges and priorities for cooperation within CWI

- Sufficient information on wetlands and their monitoring
 - Management of transborder sites, habitats and species
 - Exchange of information on efficient management practices in wetland habitat types
 - Control and eradication of invasive alien species
 - Wetland restoration programme
 - Public awareness and education
 - Carpathian Wetland Centre
 - Human capacity
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