

Sectoral Integration of Biodiversity in Slovakia

Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Ministry of the Environment.....	2
3. Ministry of Agriculture	10
4. Ministry of Economy	15
National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic (NSSD)	15
State Tourism Policy of the Slovak Republic (ŠPCR)	16
5. Ministry of Education.....	17
6. Ministry of Health	18
7. Ministry of Culture	20

1. Introduction

Slovakia reported¹ that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the goals and objectives of the biodiversity strategy cannot be achieved without cooperation of key partners and sectors that influence the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

Responsibility for the coordination of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Slovakia is assigned primarily to the Ministry of Environment and to some extent to other authorities at the national, regional and local level.

Other departments of state, scientific and aid institutions and non-governmental organisations also participate in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, however. The private sector also plays an important role in implementation.

A national secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was established in the Ministry of the Environment in 1994 to carry out administration and coordination activity. It was an independent unit in the Nature and Landscape Conservation Division. The unit was cancelled in 2001 and the national secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was closed down. The function of the national focal point (NFP) was performed by a single employee of the Nature and Landscape Conservation Division.

In November 2004 another three national focal points were appointed for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- The NFP for the clearing-house mechanism is the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra
- The NFP for invasive species is the State Nature Conservancy
- the NFP for the Global Taxonomy Initiative is the SAV Institute of Botany

There is no designated NFP for other areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity but the NFP for policy on access to genetic resources and the NFP for the Cartagena Protocol are operational.

An analysis of the main participants in the implementation of the Convention in Slovakia is given below:

2. Ministry of the Environment

The main stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention falling under the Ministry of the Environment:

- Regional and Local Environmental Offices

¹ Slovakia (2009). The Fourth National Report on the implementation of the Convention on biological Diversity in the Slovak Republic, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, March 2009, 91 pp.

- The Slovak Environmental Inspectorate
- The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
- Bojnice Zoo
- The Slovak Environmental Agency

National documents, strategies and action plans relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity within the competence of the Ministry of the Environment:

- The National Biodiversity Strategy of Slovakia
- The National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan of Slovakia for 1998–2010 (NBSAP)
- The National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan of Slovakia for 2003-2010 (NBSAP) – See Chapter 2
- the European Landscape Convention – Implementation in the Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic signed the European Landscape Convention (ELC) in 2005 and it came into force in December 2005 (Government Resolution No. 2001/2005 of March 2005).

In Slovakia, the main instruments for implementation of the European Landscape Convention are Act No. 543/2002 Z.z. on the protection of nature and landscape, as amended, Act No. 50/1976 Zb. on land-use planning and the building code and Act No. 49/2002 Z.z. on the protection of monuments and historic sites. Slovakia therefore provides a basic level of support for planning and the protection of landscape and defines the powers of the local administration. Slovakia thus satisfies the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity to secure protection, management and planning for the landscape.

The implementation programme of the ELC is concentrated in four main pillars:

1. Institutional support – the goal is to develop the required legislation establishing the principles of landscape planning
2. Promotion – the goal is to develop and implement an information campaign, public relations work, cooperation with the media and training for professionals
3. Cooperation – the goal is to secure cooperation at the national and international levels
4. Specialised support – the objective is to identify types of landscape, characteristic landscape features, important elements of the landscape and the goals for landscape quality

The most important pillar for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is pillar 3, which includes cooperation between stakeholders in the management, planning and sustainable development of the landscape (nature conservation, conservation of biological and landscape diversity, conservation of world cultural and natural heritage etc.).

The Ministry of the Environment is the authority with overall responsibility for the coordination and management of undertakings and cooperation with interested departments of government. The

executive unit for the ELC under the Ministry of the Environment is the ministry's specialised organisation, the Slovak Environmental Agency.

Financing for the performance of tasks for the implementation of the ELC in Slovakia should be drawn from the state budget, the budgetary chapters of the interested departments of government, European Union funds and other non-budgetary sources.

The framework convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians – the Carpathian Convention (CC)

The Carpathian Convention was adopted in May 2003 and signed by all the states in the Carpathian region (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine). It came into force in January 2006.

The goal of the CC is cooperation between the contracting parties and the sustainable development of the Carpathians with the aim of improving quality of life, strengthening local economies and communities and protecting the natural and cultural heritage.

The member states have undertaken to implement an integrated strategy and take necessary measures in a range of areas. The CC comprises 24 articles, of which article 4 relates to the conservation and the sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity. In the CC, the contracting parties undertake not only to conserve but also to restore biological and landscape diversity, to take appropriate measures to ensure a high level of protection and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, their continuity and connectivity and species of flora and fauna being characteristic of the Carpathians, in particular the protection of endangered species, endemic species and large carnivores. Another highlighted undertaking is to restore degraded habitats and support the development and implementation of relevant management plans.

An important undertaking is the implementation of policies aiming at the prevention of the introduction of alien invasive species and the release of genetically modified organisms threatening ecosystems, habitats or species, and the implementation of policies for their control or eradication.

The parties have undertaken to develop and promote compatible monitoring systems, coordinated regional inventories of species and habitats, coordinated scientific research and their networking.

The CC includes a commitment to cooperation in developing of an ecological network in the Carpathians as a constituent part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in establishing and supporting a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas as well to the enhancement of conservation and sustainable management in areas outside of protected areas.

The contracting parties have undertaken to adopt appropriate measures to integrate the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity into policies on sectors such as mountain agriculture, mountain forestry, river basin management, tourism, transport, energy, industry and mining.

Financing for the CC is provided by the contracting parties to the CC individually, contributions from resources available under other programmes and agreements, and contributions from states that are not contracting parties and from governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations and resources.

Programme for Village Renewal (PVR) – revision for 2008–2013

The guiding principle of the Programme for Village Renewal is the renewal of the intellectual, material and natural environment. A guiding principle of this process is the preservation of the identity of villages, landscape and rural culture.

The PVR was brought to life in Slovakia in 1991 with the adoption of Government Resolution No. 395/2001, which assigned the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture the task of developing methodological guidelines for the procedure to be followed by state administration authorities and self-government authorities in the PVR, in particular with regard to its content and procedures. The resolution also required other departments of government to take the objectives of the programme into consideration when allocating resources from their state funds. In 1997 the Revised Programme for Village Renewal was adopted by government resolution and put into full operation. The PVR is overseen by the Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. The government approved the continuation of PVR with unchanged financing and responsibility after 1999 in Government Resolution No. 486/1999.

The PVR defines priority areas in accordance with the government manifesto for 2006–2010, some of which relate to policy on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular:

Priority 6: Renewal of native species and habitats

Type of activity: Restoration and planting of native species of trees, including fruit trees, the planting of avenues of trees, forest parks, the conservation and restoration of diverse greenery, training in the cultivation of native trees

Priority 10: Development of environmental concepts

Type of activity: Preparation of plans and studies for landscape ecology and landscape, development of local ecological stability systems, general plans for green space, studies for the renewal of public spaces

Priority 11: Renewal of fish ponds and small bodies of water

Type of activity: Renewal of fish ponds, small lakes and reservoirs

Priority 13: Countryside management

Type of activity: Revitalisation of water courses and the planting or reconstruction of bank vegetation, the renewal of wetlands, measures to retain water in the countryside, the establishment and

management of habitats and biocorridors, management of meadows and pastures (cutting, traditional pasture) in order to preserve the original character of the countryside

The PVR is financed from the state budget of Slovakia, the budgetary chapters of the interested departments of government and directly from government funds allocated to the PVR.

The Revised Programme for Wetland Management in Slovakia (PWMS) 2008–2014

The Action Plan 2008–2011 for the Revised Programme for Wetland Management in Slovakia (APPWMS)

The Programme for Wetland Management in Slovakia is the basic strategic document for the implementation of the undertakings of the Slovak Republic under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention), to which the Slovak Republic acceded in 1990 (by succession from 1993).

PWMS and the AP PWMS are based on Government Resolution No. 200/2003 of March 2003 and international documents (the EU water framework directive 2000/60/EC, the habitats directive 92/43/EEC, the birds directive 79/409/EEC, the Convention on Biological Diversity). The PWMS focuses on the priorities and goals set down for the periods between the meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (2008 – 2011 – 2014).

The Programme for Wetland Management in Slovakia 2008–2014 was adopted under Government Resolution No. 848/2007 in October 2007 and follows four strategic goals:

Strategic goal no. 1: The sustainable use of wetlands

Strategic goal no. 2: Management of wetlands of international importance

Strategic goal no. 3: Development of international cooperation

Strategic goal no. 4: Training for staff participating in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention

Specific tasks under the PWMS will be elaborated in action plans for two periods: 2008–2011 and 2011–2014 and will be updated in accordance with the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention and other relevant documents.

The Action Plan for the Programme for Wetland Management in Slovakia 2008–2011 was adopted under Government Resolution No. 848/2007 and contains 51 tasks for the implementation of the above strategic goals. Several of these relate to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular:

Strategic goal no. 1: The sustainable use of wetlands

Task 1.2: To develop, review, amend and implement national and supranational strategies, legal instruments, institutions and practices and where necessary to propose amendments to regulations affecting the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands

Strategic goal no. 3: Development of international cooperation

Task 3.2: To ensure effective coordination with other international and regional multilateral environmental conventions and agencies, to share specialist experience and information and to harmonise management and reporting systems with various conventions and neighbouring countries.

The performance of tasks under the AP PWMS is financed from the state budget, the budgetary chapters of the interested departments of government, European Union funds and other non-budgetary sources.

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)

The Slovak Republic signed the Bern Convention in 1994 and it entered into force in January 1997 (Notice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs No. 93/1998).

The aim of the Bern Convention is to conserve wild flora and fauna (populations, species, subspecies, varieties and forms) and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the cooperation of several states. Particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species. In Slovakia there are 39 of the strictly protected flora species listed in appendix I, 121 of the strictly protected fauna species listed in appendix II and 61 of the protected fauna species listed in appendix III.

The main activities that Slovakia performs under the Bern Convention include:

- the adoption of legislation and administrative measures for the species set out in the appendices (development of conservation programmes, action plans – see chapter 1)
- transcription of new additions to the text of the Bern Convention and other additional matter after every meeting of the Commission of the contracting parties.
- the granting of exceptions from the provisions of article 4 (protection of habitats), article 6 (special protection of the wild fauna species specified in appendix II) and article 7 (protection of the wild fauna species specified in appendix III)
- the establishment of conditions for the implementation of the European strategy on invasive alien species
- active participation in meetings of the Standing Committee
- preparation of national reports for the Bern Convention (so far three national reports have been prepared: The Second Annual National Report for 2002–2004, the Fourth Annual National Report for 2001–2004 and the Second Annual National Report for 2005–2006).

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)

The Slovak Republic signed the Bonn Convention in 1994 and it entered into force in March 1995 (Notice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs No. 91/1998).

The aim of the Bonn Convention is to conserve the migratory species of bird specified in annexes I and II of the Bonn Convention.

In Slovakia there are 13 endangered migratory species from appendix I and 40 migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status from appendix II. Within the scope of the Bonn Convention, Slovakia assesses the impact of various activities on migratory species, assess collisions between migratory bird species and electric power lines and takes measures for the conservation of the species listed in appendix I. Special attention is given to certain endangered and vulnerable species such as the great bustard, the golden eagle, the imperial eagle, the peregrine falcon and the saker falcon. A report is prepared on the implementation of the Bonn Convention in Slovakia at regular three-yearly intervals.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES / Washington Convention)

The aim of CITES / the Washington Convention is to place global trade in endangered species of fauna and flora under the collective control of all the states in the world in order to protect them against complete extinction caused by their over-exploitation. Endangered species of flora and fauna are listed by their degree of endangerment in 3 appendices (I, II and III).

CITES came into force in Czechoslovakia on 16 December 1992. The Slovak Republic became a party by succession on 1 January 1993. The Ministry of the Environment is the executive body for CITES in the Slovak Republic and a specialised office – the CITES executive – operates within the State Nature Conservancy, a specialised organisation belonging to the Ministry of the Environment. This office organises and coordinates activities relating to the enforcement of the convention in Slovakia. Staff from the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate act as the control authority for CITES.

The law has been amended multiple times since 1992 and at present issues relating to CITES in Slovakia are governed by the following laws:

Act No. 15/2005 Z.z. on the protection of wild animals and wild plants, the regulation of trade in such species and the amendment of certain acts, as amended, in force since 1.4.2005.

Decree of the Ministry of the Environment No. 110/2005 Z.z. laying down implementing regulations for the act on the protection of wild animals and wild plants, the regulation of trade in such species and the amendment of certain acts, as amended, in force since 1.4.2005.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Environmental impact assessment has been carried out in the Slovak Republic since 1994 when Act No. 127/1994 Z.z. on environmental impact assessment entered into force. In order to bring Slovak legislation into line with EU law, Act No. 391/2000 Z.z. on the amendment of Act No. 127/1994 Z.z. was passed in 2000 and since February 2006 the area has been governed by Act No. 24/2006 Z.z. on environmental impact assessment and the amendment of certain acts. The act set out the procedure for environmental impact assessment, the assessment of policy documents and the assessment of the

impact of buildings, facilities and other activities on the environment. Decree of the Minister of the Environment No. 113/2006 Z.z. on the act sets out particulars of professional competence in relation to environmental impact assessment. The act is fully compatible with EU law and international agreements by which Slovakia is bound (including the Convention on Biological Diversity). The phrase "environmental impact" means any direct or indirect impact on the environment including impacts on health, flora, fauna, biodiversity, soil conditions, climate, air quality, water quality, the landscape, natural localities, material property, cultural heritage and the interactions between these aspects of the environment.

Assessment involves:

- the environmental impact assessment process for policy documents
- the environmental impact assessment process for buildings, equipment and other activities
- the environmental impact assessment process for policy documents and proposed cross-border activities
- the competence of state administration authorities with regard to environmental impact assessment

Environmental impact assessment processes are divided into two groups according to the gravity of the potential negative impacts:

1. activities for which assessment is compulsory
2. activities for which the competent authority may determine that assessment is necessary

The stages of the assessment process are mutually dependent and are open to all interested parties, including the general public, from the very beginning.

In Slovakia, all costs relating to the assessment process are borne by the party that proposes the activity.

Concept for the reform and rationalisation of environmental monitoring

Environmental monitoring in Slovakia is based on a monitoring system covering the territory of the Slovak Republic that is designed to assess the overall condition of the environment in Slovakia as a whole using information on the status and trends in each of its component parts.

The Concept of Environmental Monitoring for the territory of the Slovak Republic and the Concept of an Integrated Environmental Information System (the Concept) were adopted under Government Resolution No. 449/1992 in May 1992. Implementation of the environmental monitoring system and the integrated environmental information system for the territory of the Slovak Republic was governed by Government Resolution no. 620/1993 of September 1993. A plan for subordinate monitoring systems (ČMS) was developed on the basis of these resolutions, which described the target system. ČMS centres were established as centres for methodology and coordination to direct monitoring activities. A Monitoring Coordination Council was also established.

The Concept for the Expansion of the Environmental Monitoring and Information System was adopted under Government Resolution No. 7/2000 in January 2000. The system was completed in 2004 and is regularly updated.

The Concept defined environmental monitoring as monitoring in the following areas: air quality, meteorology and climatology, water, flora and fauna, geological factors, waste, radioactivity, contaminants in food and animal feed, soil quality, forests.

Environmental monitoring in Slovakia takes place on three overlapping levels:

- environmental monitoring at the national level
- environmental monitoring at the regional level
- environmental monitoring at the local (single purpose) level

The basic components of the system for environmental monitoring at the national level are the subordinate monitoring systems. These are fully operated by their set operators. The Ministry of the Environment performs coordination and methodology activities.

The following subordinate monitoring systems (ČMS) currently operate in Slovakia:

- ČMS for air quality (ČMS Kvalita ovzdušia), operated by the Slovak Hydro-Meteorological Office (SHMÚ)
- ČMS for meteorology and climatology (ČMS Meteorológia a klimatológia), operated by SHMÚ
- ČMS for water quality (ČMS Voda) operated by SHMÚ
- ČMS for radioactivity (ČMS Rádioaktivita) operated by SHMÚ
- ČMS for Waste (ČMS Odpady) operated by the Centre for Waste Management and Environmental Management of the Slovak Environmental Agency (SAŽP COHEM)
- ČMS for flora and fauna (ČMS Biota) operated by ŠOP SR
- ČMS for soil quality (ČMS Pôda) operated by the Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute (VUPOP)
- ČMS for forests (ČMS Lesy) operated by the National Forest Centre (NLC)
- ČMS for contaminants in food and animal feed (ČMS Cudzorodé látky v potravinách a krmivách) operated by the Food Research Institute (VÚP)

Financing for environmental monitoring in Slovakia is drawn from the state budget, the budgetary chapters of the interested departments of government, European Union funds and other non-budgetary sources.

3. Ministry of Agriculture

The main stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity falling under the Ministry of Agriculture:

- Regional and local forest offices
- Lesy SR š.p. (forest management)
- The National Forest Centre

- Lesy TANAP, Tatranská Lomnica
- Plant Production Research Institute
- Animal Production Research Centre
- Grassland and Mountain Agriculture Research Institute
- Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute
- State Veterinary and Food Institute
- Plemenárské služby Slovenskej republiky, š.p. (breeding services)
- Food Research Institute
- Central Agricultural Control and Testing Institute
- Rural Development Agency
- Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences

National documents, strategies and action plans related to implementation of the Convention within the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture

National Forest Programme of the Slovak Republic (NFPSR)

The National Forest Programme of the Slovak Republic was approved by the Slovak Government in 2007 (Resolution of the Government No. 549/2007). The National Council of the Slovak Republic discussed and took note of the Forest Programme the same year. In 2008, the National Forest Programme of the Slovak Republic was further developed in the form of an indicative action plan for the 2009 – 2011 period. In the course of elaboration of this NFPSR, the following forest policy documents at national and international levels have been taken into account. EU Forest Strategy, EU Forest Action Plan, Agriculture Development Policy for 2007 – 2013 – Part Forestry, as well as other international commitments of Slovakia (MCPFE resolutions), forest-related global processes (UNFF) and international conventions among them Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Sustainable forest management is the basic principle of the NFPSR. It assumes development of an economic system on satisfying the societal requirements for nature-protective and other ecological and social functions of forests functions of forests and forestry services.

As regards the structure, the National Forest Programme of the Slovak Republic consists of strategic objectives and priorities, of which the following relate to the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity:

Strategic Objective 1: Support of ecological forest management

Priority 1: To support nature friendly forest management

- the objective of nature-friendly management is creation of a functionally integrated, ecologically stable and economically profitable forest economic system

Priority 2: To support the development and use of environmentally friendly technologies

- compliance of ecological principles so that forest stands are not damaged

Priority 3: To support conservation, improvement and enhancement of biodiversity

- conservation, protection and reasonable enhancement of biological diversity in forests are a basis of sustainable forest management accelerated action at Community and Member State level is required to restore habitats and natural ecosystems. Protection of biodiversity is ensured primarily in the forests with prevailing ecological and social functions, i.e. in the protection forests, special-purpose forests and in protected territories. It is necessary to maintain biological sources of forests, their genetic and ecosystem diversity, to maintain all components of forest ecosystems in proportion contributing to conservation, protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

Financial resources to fulfil the objectives and priorities of the National Forest Programme are expected to be provided from the national budget of the Slovak Republic and from the European Union resources. The basis for financial security of the National Forest Programme is provided from the financial framework established by the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the co-financing of the measures of the Rural Development Programme from the national budget of the Slovak Republic.

National Strategic Plan of Rural Development of the Slovak Republic for the 2007 – 2013 programming period

The National Strategic Plan of Rural Development of the Slovak Republic has been worked out in accordance with the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). It introduces the EAFRD priorities and the national priorities, taking into consideration the EC strategic guidelines for the 2007 – 2013 programming period in relation to the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies.

The strategic and legislative frameworks of the National Strategic Plan of Rural Development are defined in particular by the National Sustainable Development Strategy approved by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 978/2001, by the Action Plan of Sustainable Development for the 2005 – 2010 period approved by the Slovak Government Resolution 574/2005 and especially by the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation in Slovakia and the Updated Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation in Slovakia for the 2003 – 2010 period.

The National Strategic Plan of Rural Development lays down a global objective – to achieve a multi-functional agriculture, food processing, forestry and sustainable rural development, defining the area from the point of view of specified priorities. The attention is focused on the following activities:

- a. Improving the quality of the environment and of the landscape through introduction of proper agricultural and forest management techniques
- b. Increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food and forestry sectors through increasing effectiveness and quality of production, while maintaining the sustainable development principles and principles of ecological rural management
- c. Improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of rural management with creation of new job opportunities, education and revival and development of municipalities, contributing so to reduction of regional disparities in Slovakia

The following axes, priorities and objectives in the National Strategic Plan of Rural Development are important from the point of view of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

Axis 1: Increasing the competitiveness of agriculture and forest management sectors

Objective: To increase the competitiveness of agri-food and forestry sectors

Priority: Support of modernisation, innovation and effectiveness in agri-food and forestry sectors

Axis 2: Improving the quality of the environment and of the landscape

Objective of axis 1: To create multi-functional agricultural and forestry systems with favourable impacts on the environment, nature and landscape scenery

Priority 1: Preserving the biodiversity in rural areas and preserving agricultural and forest management systems with high added value

Objective of priority 1: Introduction of proper agricultural and forest management techniques for preservation of biodiversity and rural landscape

Halting the reduction of valuable biotopes of wild fauna and flora, especially on NATURA 2000 territories, is an important part of priority 1. The attention is focused on ecological agriculture as it favourably affects the components of the environment and landscape diversity and maintains agriculture in mountain areas and other disadvantaged regions, preserving so the original landscape specificities and traditional farming management in the Slovak rural areas.

The objectives and priorities of the National Strategic Plan of Rural Development are financially secured both from the national budget and EAFRD resources in accordance with Article 70 of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005 and Annex 1 to this Regulation, in relation to the Financial Perspective 2007 - 2013.

National Programme for Protection of Genetic Resources of Plants for Alimentation and Agriculture for 2005 - 2009

The National Programme for Protection of Genetic Resources of Plants is being implemented in accordance with the Act 215/2001 on protection of genetic resources of plants for alimentation and agriculture and according to the implementing Regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture 283/2006 implementing the Act on protection of genetic resources of plants for alimentation and agriculture.

The tasks and activities of this Programme, which are being implemented, take into account and respect the tasks and objectives resulted from national and international documents which are binding for Slovakia.

The strategic and fundamental objectives of the National Programme for Protection of Genetic Resources of Plants are determined by the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation in Slovakia and are focused in particular on protection of domestic gene pool. A special attention is paid to protection of the threatened gene pool.

The Programme is implemented and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic and the Programme's tasks are implemented by professional organisations. In accordance with the Act a complex system for protection of genetic resources of plants in Slovakia is being created and requirements to found professional workplaces of archives are laid down. It defines relationships within international cooperation, position of the gene bank and an information system of plant genetic resources.

Implementation of a number of activities specified by the National Programme for Protection of Genetic Resources of Plants is determined also by the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation and by the Updated Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation in Slovakia for the 2003 – 2010 period. Of 24 strategic objectives of the Updated Action Plan there are 9 objectives directly related to genetic resources and these objectives are reflected in the National Programme for Protection of Genetic Resources of Plants:

Objective 1: Identification of biological diversity components at the level of utility plant species or cultural plant species

Objective 2: Controlling the processes adversely affecting biological diversity

Objective 3: Strengthening the biodiversity protection in-situ

Objective 4: Strengthening the protection of genetic diversity

Objective 5: Strengthening the national capacities for ex-situ protection

Objective 18: Support of research focused on protection and sustainable use of agri-diversity

Objective 20: Support of all forms of education and awareness raising as regards the importance of protection and sustainable use of biodiversity components

Objective 22: Establishing a nation-wide clearing-house mechanism for biodiversity

Objective 24: Cooperation in implementation of the Convention and of the Agreement at global, regional (European) and national levels

The tasks of the National Programme are planned pursuant to the Act for five-year period with contracting in each year. The tasks will be updated regularly in five-year intervals with approval by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic.

Financial resources for the protection of genetic resources and for activities of the Gene Bank are provided by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic (for contributory organisations working within the agriculture sector) or these activities are funded from other sources (other organisations out of this sector).

4. Ministry of Economy

Major stakeholders in implementation of the Convention falling under the Ministry of Economy

- Slovak Tourism Agency (SACR)
- Slovak Agency for Investment and Trade Development (SARIO)
- Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA)

National documents, strategies and action plans related to implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity within the competence of the Ministry of Economy

National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic (NSSD)

The National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Slovak Republic was approved by the Slovak Government in 2001 (Resolution of the Government 978/2001). The National Council of the Slovak Republic approved the strategy by its Resolution 1989/2002 in 2002.

The Resolution of the Government, adopting the National Sustainable Development Strategy, includes concrete tasks for particular sectoral Ministries to work out targets, priorities and objectives of the Strategy in sectoral policies, strategies and programmes in the 2002 – 2005 period. In 2005, an Action Plan of Sustainable Development for the 2005 – 2010 period was worked out and approved by the Government Resolution 574/2005. The Action Plan is determined by the National Sustainable Development Strategy but takes into consideration other strategic documents, e.g. the Lisbon Strategy, EU Sustainable Development Strategy, National Development Plan of the Slovak Republic, UN Johannesburg Declaration and others.

The Action Plan of Sustainable Development for 2005 – 2010 includes 14 priority areas. Of them, the following priority areas, sub-areas and objectives are important from the point of view of protection and sustainable use of biodiversity:

Priority area 1: Implementation of principles and objectives of sustainable development in long-term economic and social strategies in Slovakia

Objective of priority 1: Incorporation of basic principles and objectives of sustainable development in long-term strategic documents (including sustainable development objectives in agriculture) with a focus on evaluation of long-term effects of these documents.

Sub-area 1.1: To build a functional integrated sustainable forest management, assuring ecological landscape stability and strengthening the economic and social regional and rural development

Sub-area 1.2.: Harmonising the EU post-accession phase with the requirements for environmentally sound development

Priority area 10: Protection and rational use of nature and landscape

Objective of priority 10: Assuring the protection and rational use of nature and landscape as one of the fundamental objectives of sustainable development in long-term strategic documents of the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture and Economy

Sub-area 10.2.: Elaborating programmes for management of national parks, protected landscape areas, protected bird areas and sites of European importance (NATURA 2000)

Sub-area 10.3.: Protection and rational use of soil in landscape

Priority area 13: Creation and evaluation of a database of basic indicators of sustainable development and monitoring of transition of the Slovak economy to sustainable development

Objective of priority 13: Development of a reliable set of indicators to evaluate sustainable development, including evaluation of transition of the economy to sustainable development

Financial resources to implement the tasks of the Action Plan are expected to be provided from the national budget, budget lines of the sectoral ministries concerned, EU resources and other extra-budgetary sources.

State Tourism Policy of the Slovak Republic (ŠPCR)

The State Tourism Policy has been developed in accordance with the Programme Declaration of the Slovak Government for the 2006 – 2010 period and in relation to the New Strategy of Tourism Development till 2013 which was adopted by the Slovak Government in May 2007.

The basic framework for meeting the objectives of tourism policy in Slovakia is defined by the principles, instruments and responsible stakeholders of which the following ones relate to the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity:

Principle 1: Tourism is an instrument for increasing the competitiveness, structural changes of economy and sustainable development with an objective to increase the share of incomes from the active tourism in GDP from the current 2.7 % to 4 % in 2013 and to increase the number of nights spent

Instrument: Support of sustainable development of tourism and support of environmentally friendly forms of tourism

Responsible stakeholders: Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, regional self-governments, municipalities

Principle 3: Tourism is a tool of regional development and business development

Instrument: Accelerating the zoning of protected sites with the aim to achieve a permanent harmony between tourism and nature protection and to create transparent conditions for tourism development in protected sites

Responsible stakeholders: Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Agriculture

The tourism development has been subsidised by the state after 1989 only to minimal extent. The major part of development plans has been financially secured from the European structural funds or from private resources. It is obvious that resources invested in the tourism bring profit and that is why the funding is currently provided directly from the national budget or from funds, where the state is involved financially. Co-funding is planned by the state administration, regional and local self-governments and entrepreneurs.

5. Ministry of Education

Major stakeholders in implementation of the Convention falling under the Ministry of Education

Slovak Academy of Sciences (Institute for Botany, Forest Ecology Institute, Zoology Institute, Landscape Ecology Institute, Institute for Genetics and Biotechnology, Institute for Parasitology, Arboretum Mlyňany, Institute for Virology)

Universities (Comenius University Bratislava, Botanical Garden of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Technical University in Zvolen, Arboretum Borová Hora of the Technical University Zvolen, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Botanical Garden of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovak Agriculture University in Nitra, Institute for Biodiversity and Biological Safety at the Slovak Agriculture University in Nitra, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra)

Sectoral professional organisations (Ministry of the Environment – State Nature Protection Agency, Ministry of Agriculture – Research Institute for Grass Vegetation and Mountain Agriculture in Banská Bystrica, Animal Production Research Centre in Nitra)

Non-governmental organisations (Landscape 21, Biosféra)

National documents, strategies and action plans related to implementation of the Convention within the competence of the Ministry of Education

Slovak Platform for Biodiversity (Bioplatform)

The Slovak Platform for Biodiversity constitutes a network of scientists and policy makers who are active in various areas related to biodiversity, supporting the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy - EPBRS) and working to halt the loss of biodiversity and implement the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation. Membership of the Platform includes 16 organisations from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, universities, sectoral professional and research institutes and non-governmental organisations.

Specific objectives of Bioplatform include:

- To provide assistance to the EPBRS in accelerating activities and increasing importance of the European research of biodiversity and monitoring through records and through the network of scientists and policy makers from 32 countries which contribute to the 5th EU
- To carry out a gap analysis of the European research of biodiversity, identify areas requiring special attention
- To arrange documents of the EPBRS (e.g. databases, lists, catalogues, recommendations) on the Bioplatform web page and make them available for the scientists, other involved persons and the public

Priorities of the Bioplatform are:

- To know and alleviate interactions between biodiversity and climate changes
- To increase taxonomic capacities in long-term research and to considerably increase the effort for a comprehensive inventory of important taxonomic groups
- To identify and mitigate degradation and loss habitats and species
- To quantify the gene diversity of species of economic and nature protection importance
- To specify and monitor the quality of habitats, including minimal territories for survival, appropriate protection status and an effective system

6. Ministry of Health

Major stakeholders in implementation of the Convention falling under the Ministry of Health

Public Health Office of the Slovak Republic

Health Information Office of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic MZ SR

National documents, strategies and action plans related to implementation of the Convention within the competence the Ministry of Health

National Environmental Health Action Plan of the Slovak Republic III (NEHAP III) for the 2006 – 2010 period

The National Environmental Health Action Plan of the Slovak Republic III (NEHAP III) for the 2006 – 2010 period (NEHAP III) was elaborated based on the Government Resolutions 978/2001 (October 2001) and 1224/2004 (December 2004). The NEHAP III was adopted by the Government Resolution 10/2006 in January 2006.

The NEHAP III has been worked out based on the revision of the NEHAP II approved by the Government Resolution 815/2000 and in the light of the conclusions of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on environmental health held in Budapest in 2004.

The NEHAP III is an important instrument to strengthen the process leading to improvement of environmental health and enforcement of sustainable development principles through activities focused on improvement of public health.

The NEHAP III consists of a set of actions and activities in the area of environmental health which should lead to meeting the basic objective, i.e. to minimise environmental health risks so that the environment does not damage or threaten the public health, including the health of children.

The NEHAP III defines priority areas and regional priority areas and activities. Some of them integrate also the issues of protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. From the biodiversity point of view there are following priority and regional areas and activities:

Priority area 1: National Action Plan for Environmental Health of Children – 4 regional priority objectives

Regional priority objective II

Activity 10: To minimise adverse impacts related to construction of transport infrastructure on the environment and human health

Activity 11: To implement the Plan of Reconstruction and Building of Educational Routes and Educational Sites by 2010

Regional priority objective III

Activity 20: To establish a National Strategy for Invasive Species and an Action Plan and to remove the invasive species affecting human health from protected sites

Regional priority objective IV

Activity 26: To continue in monitoring xenobiotic substances in food and feedstuff

Activity 27: To ensure the monitoring of dioxin levels in food and feedstuff

Priority area 2 Human biomonitoring

Activity 31: Survey of major sources of environmental pollution (Classification of the territory according to burdening level), identification of health risks from the polluted environment, especially in industrial areas burdened according to the environmental regionalisation of the burdened territories in Slovakia

Activity 33: To build an information system on environmental burdens

Priority area 3: Environmental health information system

Activity 36: Building an information system consisting of environmental health indicators and its implementation on the national level in accordance with international cooperation in the framework of ENHIS

Activity 37: Collection of data on monitored indicators reflecting the current problems on the national level, availability of data for monitoring, compatibility and more detailed analysis. To build an information system on environmental burdens.

Activity 38: Elaborating comprehensive reports assessing indicators in accordance with the recommendations of WHO in Slovakia

The NEHAP III activities will be financially secured from the national budget, budget chapters of the sectors concerned, EU resources and other extra-budgetary resources.

7. Ministry of Culture

Major stakeholders in implementation of the Convention falling under the Ministry of Culture

Slovak National Museum Bratislava

Monument Office of the Slovak Republic

National documents, strategies and action plans related to implementation of the Convention within the competence of the Ministry of Culture

Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage – implementation in Slovakia

The Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage entered into force for Slovakia in February 1991 (in the former Czechoslovakia – Notification of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs 159/1991), three months after deposition of the instrument on adoption of the Convention by Czechoslovakia in November 1990 at the Depository, the UNESCO Secretary-General. By the split of Czechoslovakia the Convention was implemented by the Czechoslovak Coordination Committee for the protection of world cultural and natural heritage and in 1993 a Slovak Committee for the protection of world cultural and natural heritage was established for this purposes. At present, six Slovak objects are included in the list of world cultural and natural heritage (Banská Štiavnica and surrounding technical monuments, Spiš Castle and surrounding monuments, Cultural Architecture Reserve Vlkolíneč, Historic centre of the town of Bardejov and the Jewish suburb, the caves of the Slovak Karst and Aggtelek Karst, Carpathian primeval forests).

The management of cultural heritage monuments is within the responsibility of the Monument Office of the Slovak Republic and the management of natural heritage monuments is assured by the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and their agencies (State Nature Protection Agency and the state enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic).

Slovak National Museum (SNM) – sharing in the implementation of the tasks of the Updated Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation in Slovakia

The Slovak National Museum, working under responsibility of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, plays a crucial role in nature protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and in fulfilling the tasks of the Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation through meeting the strategic objective 19, strategic orientation 1:

Strategic objective 19: Support of creation of human and institutional capacities for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Strategic orientation 1: To strengthen the current capacity of institutions involved in management, research and monitoring of biodiversity, especially those institutions working in the conditions in-situ

The SNM takes part in implementing the outputs from the monitoring of selected components of biodiversity with a focus on development of collections of the SNM, use of field monitoring and material for building a permanent representative exposition presenting the biodiversity accompanied by other forms of work (exhibitions, presentation programmes, competitions, etc.)

The SNM has also taken part in building an electronic documentation of nature development as a tool to alleviate the access to information on the SNM's collections. The museum cooperates with other institutions (Institute for Botany, Fauna Database of Slovakia) to link the database of biological collections with other projects of national or European importance.