

ACTION PLAN for the sustainable use of ecosystem servicesin BÜKK NATIONAL PARK

Eger, April 2019







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1. Introduction

a. Purpose and scope of the action plan

The Danube region is home to a rich natural heritage with increased biodiversity, largely due to its variety of landscapes and special conditions in the karst area. Diversity can also be observed in the countries in this area, some of which can be considered among the most developed in the world, while others are in the process of rapid development. Thus, conflicts between local populations and nature conservation objectives often occur, especially in protected natural areas. The perception that nature conservation prevents progress and local development is still present in many protected areas. It is, therefore, essential to develop ways in which these conflicts can be avoided and to encourage the development of fruitful collaboration between people responsible for nature conservation and the local population for the mutual benefit of people and biodiversity.

This Action Plan is the direct result of the activities undertaken within the ECO KARST project, based on a structured and participatory approach, aimed to assist both the Bükk Natural Park Directorate (as a nature conservation administration) in managing the natural capital and the ecosystem services and also the local communities developing pro-biodiversity business. The present Action Plan is a non-binding, guiding document, that will steer the management decisions within the park in the short to mid-term future, alongside or integrated into the existing management structures.

Bükk Natural Park Directorate considersthis Action Plan as a partnership document, guiding the ways in which the park and its partners will collaborate in the future. Most of the actions are derived from the Management Plan of the national park, which is currently under supervision of the nature conservation department of the Ministry of Agriculture. The role of the Action Plan is also crucial in the harmonization of other sectoral plans (such as land use planning documents, forestry, and hunting plans).

Thus, the Bükk National Park has no legally promulgated 'buffer zone' but in the implementation of the ECO KARST project we have taken into consideration the surrounding areas as well, because some of the studied ecosystem services have significant presence and role. Furthermore, we define the surrounding area as 'Bükk region' in the Action Plan.

There are two small protected areas — designated after the national park's act — which are completelyadjacent to the national park (Bélkő Nature Protected Area, est. 2008; 97 hectares; Tardi-legelő Nature Protected Area, est. 2007; 280 hectares). These protected sites are important to include to the ECO KARST project, majority of the territories are state owned and managed by the

Protected Area Name

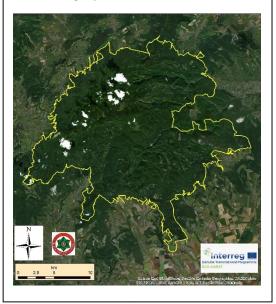
Size: 43.168 hectares

Altitude: 140 – 980 m a.s.l.

Population: >800 inhabitants

Protected since: 1978

IUCN category: V, Natura 2000 sites







national park directorate. These are mostly non-forested areas (pastures, hayfields and abandoned query)supplying several other important ecosystem services beside the forests.

b. Creation and ownership of the plan

The Action Plan is based on extensive and detailed overview of the condition of the present ecosystems and the services they provide to the local population. Moreover, the actions proposed here were developed and discussed with a wide array of stakeholder in a series of three workshops. The Action Plan will be primarily implemented by the national park directorate, however, a close collaboration with local stakeholders, identified in the plan, will be maintained.

2. Situation analysis of the site

a. General characteristics

The Bükk National Park - including the Bükk Mountains, a part of the Northern Mountain Range - was established on 1 January 1977 on an initial 38,774.6 hectares. Nowadays, it covers 43,168.8 hectares. The area of the strictly protected zones covers 6.010 hectares. It is the third national park in Hungary, but the first one in a mountain area dominated by forests. The Bükk Mountains belong to the inner range of the Carpathians. The High Bükk is mainly an area of cavernous limestone, the slightly undulating plateau is characterized by low peaks and the typical formations of karstic surfaces (karrenfelds, dolinas, sink-holes, shafts, and caves). The rocky masses of the southern edge are particularly spectacular (the range of the Bükk Rocks). The highest peak is under 1000 metres (Szilvás-kő 960 m a.s.l.). The most important feature of the vegetation, flora and fauna of the mountain is its great diversity, from subalpine element to the sub-mediterranean representatives on the southern foothills. The sump-caves take us to the rich and variegated undersurface world of karst phenomena. 52 of the cca. 1100 explored caves are strictly protected. The longest (4.000 metres) and deepest (245 metres) cave of Hungary, the István-lápa cave, is in the national park.

The protected area overlaps the administrative territory of two counties: Heves and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Counties and 21 municipalities. The national park is sparselypopulated (less than 800 residents), only three municipalities (part of municipalities) are situated inside the park boundary (Répáshuta, Ómassa, Lillafüred-Felsőhámor). In the buffer area, more than 200.000 inhabitants live (including three towns: Miskolc, Eger, Bélapátfalva).

The Bükk National Park Directorate is a state institution, fulfilling nature conservation duties and

tasks in its operational area. Additionally, the Bükk National Park, also attends to the management tasks of areas and assets under national protection of any level in three counties (9 protected landscape areas, 13 protected areas). The BNPD is also responsible for the management of Natura 2000 sites, caves, mires,

Land use (according to	Percent in the				
Corine Land Cover database)	project area %				
Urban areas	0.4				
Arable land	0.3				
Forests	97.9				
Pastures and meadows	1.4				

springs, etc. The Nature Conservation Act lists the following measures: surveys and cadastres, and all other activities aiming at the protection, conservation, maintenance, reconstruction, as well as public awareness and education in the protected areas.





b. Description of features characterizing biodiversity

Climatic features and the rather diversified topography determine the unique wildlife of the Bükk Mountains. In Hungary, the most regular mountain vegetation zones have evolved in the Bükk Mountains where, with typical zonal forest associations (forest-steppe woods → sessile oak woods → oak-hornbeam woods →submontane and montane beechwoods). The ravine forest is the characteristic forest association of deep valleys with a cool and humid climate. On the rocky limestone hillsides with southern exposure, ash lime rock forestsare the remnant of the warming period, following the Ice Age between 9000-7500 B.C. Sub-Pannonic mixed whitebeam-lime relict forests, present on the steepest rocky hillsides, are rich in sub-alpine relict species. On the warm slopes of the south-eastern Bükk with thin rendzina soil, associations composed of 'bush forests', thermophile oak forests andsteppe meadow patches can be found. Of the treeless vegetation types, typical stands of the limestone-dolomite rock grasslands or siliceous grasslands formed on volcanic rocks should be mentioned. Species-rich mountain meadows in the mountain region that used to be utilized as hayfields have evolved by deforestation. The flora of the Bükk Mountains contains about1.400plant species, of which 18 are only known from here in Hungary.

As a result of the various impacts on the fauna, the diverse geomorphologic features and the variable vegetation, a species-rich fauna has evolved, with an estimated minimum number of 22.000 animal species present in the Bükk Mountains. Endemic species living only in the Bükk Mountains, as for example *Duvaliusgebhardti*(blind coleoptera) or sub-endemic butterfly species such as the mountain argus (*Aricia artaxerxes*) are very valuable. Many rare species can be found in the gorges at the northern part of the mountains. The avifauna is characterized mainly by woodland species, with internationally significant populations of some birds of prey (e.g. imperial eagle, lesser spotted eagle, honey buzzard), woodpeckers, collared and red-breasted flycatchers.

The national park is totally overlapped with a special protected area (SPA) designated according to the Birds Directive of the European Union ('Bükk-hegységésperemterületei' /HUBN10003/). Six special areas of conservation (SAC) overlap fully or partly (*) with the national park territory: 'Bükk-fennsíkés a Lök-völgy' (HUBN20001), 'Hór-völgy, Déli-Bükk' (HUBN20002), 'Szarvaskő' (HUBN20004), 'KisgyőriÁsottfa-tető - Csókás-völgy' (HUBN20005), 'Vár-hegy - Nagy-Eged' (HUBN20008*), 'Tard környékierdőssztyepp' (HUBN20009*). These Natura 2000 sites are designated for the protection of altogether 8 plant, 21 invertebrate, 3 fish, 1 amphibian, 27 bird, and 13 mammal species.

Ecosystem condition map is produced based on the vegetation map of the national park according to the mapping methodology set in ECO KARST WP3. The extensive vegetation mapping was elaborated around 1995-2000, but some parts (esp. non-forested habitats) were remapped later. The mapped area is partly (approx. 90%) overlapped with the project area. The 'blank' places were mapped with the help of orthophotos and forestry data. The basemap contains more than 38.000 polygons.

The habitats were scored according to their naturalness and, as a modifying factor, we have used the number of the protected plant species occurring in each habitat polygon. Vascular protected plants are good indicator species: (1) understory plants in forest habitats reflects the naturalness and (2) grassland species in open habitats mostly reflect to the management regimes in the past or present land-use.





According to the ecosystem condition map the present state of the pilot area is favorable. The low cover of urban areas, low infrastructure is suitable for a long-term survival of the wild flora, fauna, and habitats. Most of the biggest quarries were abandoned and this threat is no longer interfere the natural processes. The most precious habitats are on the open karst surface: the presence of the deep gorges, karstic watersheds, and rocky outcrops is remarkable. The foothills are less natural with their several secondary forests (e.g. black locust) and agricultural lands (arable lands, orchards). Several negative elements influence the state of the natural condition. In forest areas, the non-proper management (incl. big cutting areas, elimination of lying and standing deadwood, non-proper age and tree composition of the forest lots) is crucial. The abandonment of grasslands with the collapse of the animal husbandry is the largest threat for biodiversity in the pilot area.

In the next table we conclude the assessment of main activities and potential impacts on the conservation status of ecosystems:

Activity	nd potential impacts on the conservation status of ecosystems Description	Impact evaluation
Forestry	The forest cover of the Bükk National Park is very significant (more than 95%). Timber and firewood should be 'produced' in all forest lots, but as an activity implemented in a protected area is influenced by several conditions. The legislative framework – due to the forestry planning process – is determinant. The forestry companies use 'classical forestry' interventions, esp. in forest cutting methods (shelterwood system), with natural regeneration. Alternative forestry methods (e.g. selective cutting, Pro Silva methods) appear only in lower scale in the management of the forestry companies. The alteration is a slow movement, mostly manifested via the nature conservation restriction at the forestry planning phase. The integration of biodiversity aspects in forest planning and forest management implementation is needed. In forest areas the non-proper management (incl. large cutting areas, elimination of lying and standing deadwood, non-proper age and tree composition of the forest lots) is not favorable for the wild flora and fauna and may cause environmental problems, too (e.g. erosion).	-/+ Significantly impact
Grazing and mowing	The present situation of the grazing is not favorable. Only some parcels, especially in the southern part of the project area are managed by grazing (esp. sheep, goat and cattle). According to an inventory from the ES mapping, we can conclude that 30% of the grasslands havedisappeared in the last two-three decades. The shrub encroachment is very significant in several places. The mountain meadows (in karstic areas) are owned by the state forestry enterprises and one parcel is belonging to the National Stud Farm of Lipizzaner horses (without active management).	+ Appear only in small patches – low, but significant positive impact
Tourism	Bükk National Park is a populararea among the visitors. The park has a long tradition of hiking and outdoor sports. This includes bicycle riding, horseback riding, rock climbing, caving and, to a smaller extent, winter sports. There are organized tours	+/- Medium negative impact (depends on different





	and sports competitions such as performance racing (long	locations)
	and sports competitions, such as performance racing (long distance hike), running and bicycle competitions, taking place. The influence of hiking associations on the area is positive, since they contribute to the designation and maintenance of marked hiking paths and rest areas. The number of events and the number of participants in different competitions is increasing. The quality of the environment, both natural and man-made, is essential to tourism. However, the relationship of tourism with the environment is complex. It involves many activities that can have adverse environmental effects. Many of these impacts are linked with the construction of general infrastructure such as creating or reconstructing roads, and of tourism facilities, including buildings, restaurants etc. The negative impacts of tourism development can gradually destroy environmental resources on which it depends. Tourism can put enormous pressure on an area and lead to impacts such as soil erosion (via trampling), increased pollution, natural habitat loss, increased pressure on endangered species and heightened vulnerability to	locations)
Hunting	the protected area, so the organizers need to be aware and accountable for limiting wildlife disturbance to the minimum. The hunting activities has a medium impact on biodiversity. The management of overpopulated wild game populations (esp. wild boars, mouflons, red- and roe-deers) is manifested by the hunting activities. The reestablishment of large carnivores (wolves and lynxes) took place in the park in the last decades. Their presence should be accepted by the hunter communities; thus some cases	+ / - Medium impact
Forest fruit, mushrooms and herb collection	illegal hunting was documented in the national park. The present impact of these activities is very low in the protected territory and vary from year to year (according to the 'product' availability). The collection of mushrooms and other non-timber forest products is generally regulated and limited in the protected area.	+ / - Low impact

c. Description of ecosystem services

In the ECO KARSTproject, five ecosystem services were mapped in the project area. In this chapter, we summarize the results of the ecosystem mapping, highlighting its importance for sustainable development of the local community and PBBs.

• Timber & firewood

Most of the forests (over 95%) are managed by two state-owned forestry companies (Egererdő and Északerdő Ltd.). Due to the modernization of the forestry techniques, less and less people work directly in the forest. Before it was an important life form of the local people in and around the national park. The main product of the forests is the firewood, the incomes from processed materials and non-timber products are much lower. The low income level of population determinates the fact, that there is no market for high-quality products.





Hay and output of livestock

The grassland cover is rather small in the project area and considerably spatially dispersed. Around 2% of the area of Bükk National Park is grassland of a very high conservation value. Thus, biodiversity is very rich. However, the abandonment of non-edafic grassland types (esp. meadows) is causinghabitat degradation and losing of valuable habitats. The species, which are dependent on open habitats, cannot survive the secondary succession. Grazing is more traditional in lower altitude on the foothills of the Bükk (mostly outside of the project area). The social importance of the grasslands now is very low. Very few people work in the agricultural sector in the project area (this activity is much more important in the vicinity of the park). The two inner municipalities, Répáshuta and Bükkszentkereszt are typical clearing derived settlements (around 200 years old), where the grassland management (mostly hay-making) was a typical utilization. The direct income from the grasslands are very low. The present management (mowing) has lower income for the owners than the direct payments (as EU agricultural subsidies from CAP). The mountain meadows (in karstic areas) are owned by the state forestry companies and one parcel is belonging to the National Stud Farm of Lipizzaner horses (without active management). The grasslands on the foothill are privately owned or farmers as renters contribute in grassland management on state land belonging to the national park administration. The low infrastructure and the patchy distribution of the meadows are not favorable from management point of view.

Water quality

In the Bükk Mts. the use of karst water has always been of fundamental importance and is still extremely important among water users, although its role has changed. Today, water use from groundwater production has dropped significantly due to significant social changes (lower population in the vicinity; collapse of industrial activity etc.). The Bükk Mountains have a dynamic, constantly renewed (cold) karst water pool value of estimated 40.000.000 m³/day. The renewal of the karst water supply depends very strongly and decisively on precipitation conditions and - to a lesser extent - on production today. The utilization of karstic water is a state-owned monopol, three companies manage the karstic water in the region (MIVIZ Ltd., HevesMegyeiVízmű Ltd., ÉRV. ÉszakmagyarországiRegionálisVízművek Ltd.), supplying more than 300.000 customers.

Touristic attractiveness of nature

The quality of the environment, both natural and man-made, is essential for tourism. However, the relationship of tourism with the environment is complex. It involves many activities that can have adverse environmental effects. Many of these impacts are linked with the construction of general infrastructure, such as creating or reconstructing roads, and of tourism facilities, including buildings, restaurants etc. The negative impacts of tourism development can gradually destroy environmental resources on which it depends. Tourism can put enormous pressure on an area and lead to impacts, such as soil erosion (via trampling), increased pollution, natural habitat loss, increased pressure on endangered species, and increasedvulnerability to fires. The pilot area has a strong protection legislation as national park, so only eco-touristic development is feasible. The mass tourism should be canalized into the touristic zones (C-zones) of the park or outside the protected areas. The demand for better services in the forested areas is also significant. Several touristic developments were implemented by the park administration, municipalities and forestry companies recently (e.g. educational trails, renewed forest huts, narrow gauge railway lines, look-out towers, planned visitor





center etc). An increase in emphasis should not mean increasing the number of visitors, especially not for outdoor sports events, but todevelop the program offer and cooperation among the stakeholders.

• Carbon sequestration

Forestry has a key role in carbon capture and the long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO_2) . The main investment type is the reforestation, which has lower role in the pilot area, because the land nowadays is covered predominantly by forests. The main dominant trees in the pilot area are long-lived trees (>100 years) which sequester carbon for a more graduated release. The secondary succession on grasslands lead also greater carbon fixation rate in the area, but from nature conservation viewpoint this is not a favorable process. In the case of carbon sequestration, we cannot estimate pro-biodiversity business opportunities, especially for individuals or SME businesses.

d. Description of pro-biodiversity businesses potentials

Pro-biodiversity businesses (PBBs) are enterprises that generate financial returns and at the same time make a positive contribution to preserving biodiversity. For most economic activities, ecosystem services are used and sometimes exploited. Conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services, while simultaneously ensuring economic success, offers the chance to ensure a sustainable use of ecosystem services.

There are several administrative and demographic challenges in the Bükk National Park, which have an influence on the development of all economic sectors. The main factors are the following:

- Administrative and political obstacles (e.g. two administrative unit; lack of financial and technical support, nature conservation restrictions)
- Social and human resources (e.g. rural-urban migration of the younger population; aging local population; small motivation among the local population to found new businesses; lack of trust in cooperatives; local population do not have required financial resources as venture capital for the start of new businesses).
- Environmental challenges (e.g. climate change; be longer periods of draughts; spread of invasive alien species)

Several opportunities in the Bükk National Park are relevant for the development of a variety of sectors. To summarize the main results of the gap analysis and the stakeholder workshops,we enlist the main cross-sectoral opportunities were identified:

- A. Cooperation between producers, processors and service providers;
- Shorten of transportation pathways between regional businesses and customers;
- Joint marketing and selling of products to tourists / visitors;
- Exporting the locally produced products to national or international customers;
- Creation of 'Bükk Council', as bottom up organized independent network for local stakeholders and decision-makers.
- B. Implementation of certification and regional branding schemes
- · Acquiring an organic certification;





• Using the origin form the protected area as a special feature (brandingdevelopment)

At firststakeholder workshop, the participants have assessed the PBB possibilities / feasibilities in the region and to pre-select four PBBs for further discussion, as follows:

- Grassland management /as hay and fodder/;
- Processed local products;
- Tourism and sport activities and
- Education with special attention of bird-watching.

e. Stakeholders analysis and participation

In Annex VI.there is a list of stakeholders enclosed with external and internal experts who were involved in the mapping process, workshops, and planning activity during the ECO KARST project.

Social network data collected in the ECO KARST project can help to find ways to include stakeholders, understand relations among people and between society and nature, as well. The analysis figure (GEPHI graph) shows that networks were relatively well connected and also had a better connected internal sub-network (altogether 78 responders with 535 nodes; Fig.-1.). As in the case of other pilots, where forests are harvested, there was a communication gap between forest managers and other stakeholders). This pattern is probably not related to forestry as it is, more likely to the fact that the main ecosystem type in general gives a position of authority to its manager that enables unilateral decisions and non-negotiable strategies. According to the analysis we have found that there is poor communication between the following groups, which needs improvement in the future (see dashed red lines on Fig.-2.):

- tourism animal keepers
- tourism small producers
- forestry small producers

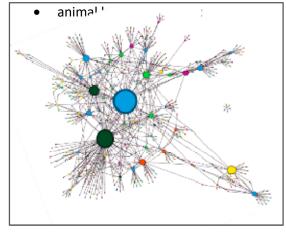


Fig.-1: GEPHI graph

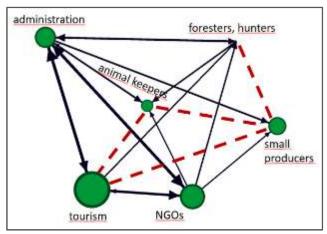


Fig.-2.: Communication between groups









3. Goals, objectives and implementation

a. Forests

Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
THEME: FORE	STS							
A Enhance sustainable use of the forests	A1 Introduce close to nature forest management	A1.1 Initiate the adjustment of logging in the protected area forest (under cutting forestry system)	 Lobbying for a higher percentage of dead wood left in the forest Lobbying for a decrease the maximum allowable cutting area Foster the establishment of multispecies and multiage forest-structure (incl. microhabitats) through raising awareness and 	BNP, Bükk region (Natura 2000 sites)	BNPD ,Forest enterprises (EgererdőZrt. , ÉszakerdőZrt.), private forest owners	In line with the new forest manageme nt plans	Public funds at forestry planning	- 20% of new forest management plans are adapted with the measures proposed here - Improved state of forest naturalness by 30%





A1.2 Extend the area of forests with continuous forest cover	1.	lobbying, based on the benefits of such forests Creation of a network of ecocells in managed forest zone by promoting and introducing the system of ecocells to private forest owners Implement the conservation forest management (oak forests managed by BNPD via LIFE project) Demonstrate the best practices of the oak forests nature conservation management Afforestation	BNP protected area (esp. strictly protected forests) BIOMAP for LIFE project sites(Annex II)	BNPD, MTA ÖK, external partners	2019 – 2026 (in LIFE project areas) 2019 ongoing	LIFE16 NAT/IT/000245, state budget	-	Increased forest cover of native species by 20% 100 ha of new forest management plans are adapted with the measures proposed here Improved state of forest naturalness by 30%
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			only with native species in BNPD forests and lobbying for this type of afforestation in other forests					-	Number of environmentall y conscious forest managers increased by 50%
A2 Suppression / elimination of invasive tree species	A2.1 Tree composition conversion back to oak forests	2.	Involvement of BNPD in the adjustment of forest management plan Set the intervention areas Implement the elimination	BNP protected area and neighboring Natura 2000 sites	BNPD, state and private forest owners	In line with the new forest manageme nt plans 2019 –2035 (in forests managed by BNPD)	State budget, operational programmes	-	Increasing naturalness in the forest by 30% Suppression of invasive tree species (e.g. Robinia pseudo-acacia, Ailanthus altissima) — reduced cover of these species by 25%
A3 Sharing best practices in forest management & raise awareness	A3.1 Improve and broaden the existing knowledge base on forest	1.	Collect successfully implemented forest management and conservation	BNP protected area and neighboring Natura 2000 sites	BNPD, state forest institutions, MTA ÖK, WWF	2019 –2025	State budget, after life of LIFE13 INF/HU/001163 project	-	Increasing knowledge of forest managers by implementatio n of 2 workshops per





	methodologies 2. Implementing the Natura 2000 Forest Planning Toolkit 3. Enhance the adaption best practices of stakeholder involvement in forest management (through workshops and events)					year - Implemented 3 annual close- to-nature forestry interventions via management practice - Improved state of forest naturalness by 30%
Raising awareness about sustainable forestry	 Promoting best practice management techniques via filed visits, forums, workshops E-learning training modules 	BNP protected area and neighboring Natura 2000 sites	BNPD, state forest institutions, MTA ÖK, WWF, KaptárkőEgy esület	2019 –2025	State budget, after life of LIFE13 INF/HU/001163 project	 Increasing knowledge of forest managers by implementation of 2 workshops per year Implemented 3 annual closeto-nature forestry interventions





								-	via management practice Improved state of forest naturalness by 30%
Research and monitoring of key species	A4.1 Maintain and restore populations of key species associated with forests (inaccordance with national species actionplans)	2.	Review of the existing monitoring schemes (according to the Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System (HBMS)) Launching regional research and monitoring scheme for management indicator species groups (e.g. vascular plants, woodpeckers and other tree-	BNP protected forests (monitoring locations)	BNPD, external researchers and institutions (universities, research institutions, Hungarian Natural History Museum etc.)	2019 – ongoing	State budget, research funds	-	Favourable Conservation Status of species will be improved (in 80% of the Natura areas) Know-how of monitoring methods will be transferable with organization of 3 trainings per year





dwelling birds,
bats, large
carnivores)
3. Repetition of
the long-term
habitat survey
(160 non-
forested
quadrats)

b. Grasslands

Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
THEME: GRASS	SLANDS							
B Revert the afforestation process & halt the biodiversity lost	B1 Conservation and reconstruction of high plateau karstic meadows	B1.1 Reconstruct / rehabilitate mountain meadows	 Review of the Grassland Management Plan of BNP Obtaining permits Implementation (within forestry and NP jurisdictions-30 		BNPD, Forest enterprises (EgererdőZrt ., ÉszakerdőZrt .), National Stud for Lipizzaner Horses,	2019 – 2021	State budget, foresters' budget, agricultural subsidies (SAPS)	 Add 100 ha of reconstructed mountain meadows Number of meadows maintained Developing good ecological conditions of





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
			ha) – mowing and shrub removal 4. Establishment of extensive summer grazing system (with reintroduction of Lipizzaner horse grazing) 5. Monitor the interest of the locals for the PBB development (e.g. herb collection, or link to tourism)		private owners (as PBB possibilities)			protected area / Natura 2000 sites in 80% of the Natura sites - Increase in the protected/rare species in the mountain meadows (link with Natura 2000 monitoring) by 50%
	Halt the loss of existing areas of foothill steppic grassland / wooded	B2.1 Management of foothill grasslands / wooded pastures &	 Promote grazing activities (removal of IAS and expanding shrubs) Target and review the use 	BNP, Bükk region - foothill grasslands BIOMAP (Annex III)	BNPD, farmers, Hungarian Birdlife (MME) 'Bükk Group'	2019 – 2025	State budget LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU (LIFE17 IPE/HU/000018) project	 Add 300 ha of reconstructed mountain meadows Number of meadows maintained





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
	pastures and expand the habitats	involvement of local people to utilize larger areas	of existing agrienvironment schemes and other funding sources to support the management of grassland (esp. Bükkalja ESA) 3. Organize local/regional forum (establishment of Bükk Grazing Forum, annual meeting)					- Developing good ecological conditions of protected area / Natura 2000 sites in 80% of the Natura sites - Increase in the protected/rare species in the mountain meadows (link with N2K monitoring) by 50%
C Maintain and restore populations of keyspecies associated with grassland /	C1 Sustainable management of grassland species	C1.1 Research and monitoring of key species	1. Review of the existing monitoring schemes (according to the Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System (HBMS))	BNP Protected meadows (monitoring locations)	BNPD, external researchers and institutions (universities, research institutions, Hungarian	2019 – ongoing	State budget, national and international research funds	- Favorable Conservation Status of species will be improved in 80% of Natura sites - Know-how of monitoring





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
wooded- pasture			2. Launching regional research and monitoring scheme for management indicator species groups (e.g. vascular plants, Carabidae, Formicidae, Araneae, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera) 3. Repetition the previous quantitative studies for indicator species groups 4. Repetition of the long-term habitat survey (40 non-		Birdlife (MME) 'Bükk Group', Hungarian Natural History Museum etc.)			methods will be transferable by organization of 3 trainings per year





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
			forested quadrats)					
		C1.2 Small-scale management for species conservation	 Defining the target species / species-groups Collecting available knowledge on the ecological needs and lifestyle of the target species Obtaining licenses (if needed) Involving volunteers, public institutions, NGOs (where applicable) Implement measures Monitoring of 	BNP Protected meadows	BNPD	2019 – 2025	State budget, LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU (LIFE17 IPE/HU/000018) project	- Increase in the protected/rare species in the mountain meadows - Good ecological conditions of the managed locations (habitat mosaics) - Increasing number of environmentall y conscious citizens (involving volunteers)





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps the measures	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
D Common public recognition of the value of the grasslands& wooded pastures	D1 Improve the public awareness by promotion of values	D1.1 Monitor the interest of the locals for the PBB development (e.g. mowing, herb collection, or link to tourism)	1. Survey for actual utilization / management of grasslands 2. Offering activities for civil participation (e.g. special event as 'Rural Olympic Games') 3. Dissemination of the LIFE IP project results and outputs	BNP, Bükk region (esp. Natura 2000 sites)	BNPD, interested local communities	2019 –2026	State budget, funds for NGOs and local communities LIFE-IP GRASSLAND-HU (LIFE17 IPE/HU/000018) project	- Increasing number of environmentall y conscious citizens (involving volunteers) with 1 annual survey and 10 annual activities organised





c. Orchards

Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
THEME: ORCHA	ARDS							
E Protection and reconstruction of extensive orchards	E1 Reconstruction and rehabilitation of old orchards and extension of them, where possible	E1.1 Protection of present extensive orchards	1. Compiling a management plan for the extensive orchards 2. Obtaining licenses for management (if needed) 3. Involve local people in the management tasks (as PBB possibilities) – local products link to tourism)	Orchards at Tard, KácsSály, Mónosbél villages BIOMAP (Annex IV)	BNPD, Forest enterprise (ÉszakerdőZrt.), Hungarian Birdlife (MME) 'Bükk Group', private owners (as PBB possibilities)	2019 –2021	State budget, agricultural subsidies (SAPS, AES)	- Add 3 ha of reconstructed extensive orchards - All old fruit varieties to preserve - Increase in the protected/rare species connecting to the orchards by 10%
		E1.2 Establishment of new orchards in the	 Inventory for old remnants of orchards and fruit-variety Setting of a 	Orchards at Tard (in the pilot area) and around	BNPD, external specialists (pomologists)	2019 –2025	State budget, agricultural subsidies (AES), private	 100 pcs / year old-variety fruit trees will be plant Filled database





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
		Bükk Region	database for the fruit varieties and their locations 3. Setting a network of newly planted / reconstructed fruit gardens 4. Establish a network for organizing variety identification, organizing propagation and grafting 5. Organizing special event (e.g. pruning / grafting / harvesting day – potential PBB possibilities /as products,	the region (villages)			investments	records for the local varieties 5 pcs model farms with extensive varieties and environmentall y friendly farming / region (incl. the present farms)





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
			tourism/ 6. Networking activities with domestic and foreign organizations					

d. Networking & tourism

Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success			
THEME: NETWO	THEME: NETWORKING & TOURISM										
Establishment of well- connected and nature- friendly tourism offer	F1 Development of local product programme	F1.1 Creation of "Bükk Product" brand	1. "Bükki Product" brand formulation (corporate identity, website) 2. Expand the number of entrepreneurs	Bükk region	BNPD, present branded entrepreneu rs and producers	2019 – ongoing	State budget	 Increase the number of products sold by 50% Increase their awareness with at least one training per year 			





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
			and products 3. Dissemination of the existing brand for the customers 4. Marketing expansion (using different marketing channels) 5. Improvement of the identity and usage of National Park Products (nationwide imitative)					- A new brand established
		F1.2 Expand the market for local producers	 Expansion of the store network, common sales channels Training (entrepreneurshi p training, market access) 	Bükk region	BNPD, Bükk Foundation	2019 –2024	State budget, Interreg DTP project "Brand"	 The number of green entrepreneurs increases by 10%/year Number of store network grows by a





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Ste	ps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
			3.	Good examples from domestic and international					store per year The number of sales products increases every year by 10% Number of branded producers and products increases by 10% Increase revenue by increasing the number of products sold by 10% a year
	Ecotourism infrastructure development	F2.1 Establishing the Bükk Region Geopark (nomination	2.	Preparation and submission of documentation Independent online communication channels	Area of the planned Geopark	BNPD, Bükk Foundation, EszterházyKá roly University, Hungarian	2019 –2020	State budget, national & international funds	 Creation of a new geopark in Hungary Increase of knowledge (also karst





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
		and ratification of the geopark status by UNESCO)	(webpage, FB) 3. Development of networked tourism products 4. Public information via road-shows 5. Publication 6. Networking, national and international good examples		Geological Society, KaptárkőEgy esület			dependent) by establishment of a webpage and promotional FB profile - 1 roadshow per year - 2 publications per year
		F2.2 Launching the Dark-sky Park Visitor Centre (Répáshuta)	 Opening of the facility Operation of the visitor centre Reducing of light pollution in the area (new 	Designated area of the Dark-sky Park BIOMAP	BNPD, municipality of Répáshuta, KaptárkőEgy esület	2019 –2020	State budget, national & international funds	 Lower light pollution by 20% State of nocturnal species improved by





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
			techniques, technology development, awareness raising) 4. Networking, national and international good examples	(Annex V.)				30% - Increase number of visitors by 10% a year
		F2.3 Opening and promotion of Szeleta Visitor Centre	 Opening of the facility Operation of the visitor centre Building and maintenance of the necessary infrastructure (e.g. tourist path, benches) Networking, national and international good examples 	Szeleta Visitor Centre (Miskolc) BIOMAP (Annex V.)	BNPD, Municipality of Miskolc Town	2019 - 2021	European Fund (GINOP)	- Increase number of visitors by 10% a year





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
		F2.4 Development of biking infrastructure	 Organizing bike events (and joining to other initiatives / events) Maintenance of bike renting (servicing) points & creation of a network for this service Promotion of e-bike possibilities with its technological background (plugging) – developing of the new biking map 'Bicycle-friendly' accommodations Development of environmentally friendly public 	Bükk region	BNPD, Government Commissione r for Active Tourism, Hungarian Biking Association, KaptárkőEgy esület, local and county governments entrepreneu rs, tourism operators	2019 – 2025	State budget (Government special funds), private investments	 Increase of environmentall y conscious visitors, Increase of services Development of PBBs





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
		F2.5 Establishment of education trails and facilities	1. Maintenance of the presenting thematic trails and facilities (BNPD managed) 2. Assist and consult of newly planned trails (external managed)	BNP and Bükk region	BNPD, NGOs - Hungarian Birdlife (MME) 'Bükk Group', KaptárkőEgy esület, forest enterprises, local communities	2019 – ongoing	State budget, funds for local communities and NGOs	- 3 Renovated trails - Newly established trails (2 pcs) - Increase of services by 10%/year - Development of PBBs (2 pcs)
	F3 Improve energy- efficiency developments	F3.1 Promotion and establishment of green energy solutions (BNPD facilities & outer)	 Planning Licensing (obtaining permits) Execution National and international best practicing 	BNP headquarter office, guest houses and visitor centres (Eger, visitor centres at Felsőtárkány, Szilvásvárad,	BNPD, Bükk Foundation	2019 – ongoing	State budget, national and international funds	- Number of renovated houses, facilities (3 pcs a year)





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
		Design of electric charging stations F3.2 Design and construction of passive houses	 Planning Licensing (obtaining permits) Execution National and international best practicing 	Répáshuta, Borostyán Guest House, Oszla Guest House) BNP headquarter office, guest houses and visitor centres (Eger, visitor centres at Felsőtárkány, Szilvásvárad, Répáshuta, Borostyán Guest House, Oszla Guest House)	BNPD	2019 – ongoing	State budget, national and international funds	- Number of renovated houses, facilities (3 pcs a year) - Increasing the environmental awareness of visitors (less waste)





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
		F3.3 Design and construction of additional electric charging stations	 Planning Licensing (obtaining permits) Execution National and international best practicing 	BNP headquarter office, guest houses and visitor centres (Eger, visitor centres at Felsőtárkány, Szilvásvárad, Répáshuta, Borostyán Guest House, Oszla Guest House)	BNPD, Bükk Foundation	2019 – ongoing	State budget, national and international funds	- Number of renovated houses, facilities (3 pcs a year)
	F4 Mitigation of unfavorable effects of the mass tourism	F4.1 Preparation of sustainability strategy	 Questionnaire survey Sociological examination, social, economic analysis (GAP analysis) Study on 	Bükk region	BNPD, tourist operators, county governments TDMs, research	2019 –2023	State budget, national and international funds	 Preparation of a strategic document Increasing the environmental awareness of visitors





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
			international practices 4. Dissemination of the results		institutions			
G Effective networking with county and local governments, local producers, NGOs, research institution	G1 Establish excellent communicatio n with all stakeholders and interested parties	G1.1 Development of communicatio n channels	 Trainings (e.g. touristic guides) Publications Media activity Webpage enhancement Initiative for public funding of 'ZöldHorizont' 	Bükk region	BNPD, Bükk Foundation, communities local service suppliers	2019 – ongoing	State budget	 Increasing the visibility and activities of the national park by increasing reach by 20% Professional information sharing at least once a year Publishing the 'ZöldHorizont' newspaper (at least 1 occasion / year)
		G1.2 Establishment of 'Bükk	 Stakeholder involvement Setting the framework of 	Bükk region	BNPD, Bükk Foundation, NGOs, communities	2019 – ongoing	State budget	 Increasing the visibility and activities of the national park





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
		Forum'	this association 3. Workplan 4. Execution (annual meeting)		local service suppliers			by increasing reach by 20% - Professional information sharing at least once a year

e. Education

Objective THEME: EDUCA	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
H	H1	H1.1	1. Creation of a	Bükk region,	BNPD, ÖKO-	2019 –	Stet budget,	- Cleaner
Environmental ly well- informed and educated public	Raise awareness about environmental topics	Raising environmental awareness through waste management	'waste study trail' with additional booklet 2. Attitude-forming lectures for primary and high	Education Centre - Felsőtárkány BIOMAP (Annex V.)	Pack Ltd., education institutes	ongoing	European funds (OP)	environment (e.g. karstic water pollution reduced) – acute incidences reduced by





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
			school students and adults 3. Placement of selective collection containers, composters at BNP Education Centre 4. Organizing waste management events, actions					80%, chronic pollution lowered by 30%
	Promoting 'outside the school' environmental education	H2.1 Preparation of forest school modules for two classes per institution	 Preparation of the module involving education specialists Planning the design and layout Networking with similar initiatives Execution Evaluation of the education 	Bükk region, EszterházyKá roly University, Hungarian Birdlife (MME) 'Bükk Group', Educational Centre - Felsőtárkány	BNPD, education institute - Eger Education Bureau	2019 – 2020	State budget	 New education modules launched 2 classes per institution Free forest school modules for two classes per institution Number of students participating in the action at





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
			module					least 50a year - Number of teachers participating in the action 10 a year
		H2.2 Advanced training for environmental education for teachers	 Preparation of lectures, field trips, workshops for teachers Present the environmental education field methods Exchange knowledge among the teachers and environmental education institutes 	Bükk region,Eszter házyKároly University, Hungarian Birdlife (MME) 'Bükk Group', Educational Centre - Felsőtárkány	BNPD, education institute - Eger Education Bureau, individual experts,	2019 – 2022	State budget, European funds (OP)	 Methods and knowledge exchanged at at least 2 trainings per year Involvement of teachers in public education in environmental education (at least 5 teachers per year)
	H3 Consultation and	H3.1 Liaising with municipal,	 Cadaster beehive-rocks Thematic lectures, 	Bükk region	BNPD, Bükk Foundation, KaptárkőEgy esület,	2019 – ongoing	State Budget, European funds (OP) for beehive	- Increase of environmentall y conscious visitors by 10%





Objective	Specific goals	Measure	Steps	Location	Responsible and collaborators	Timeframe	Financing	Indicator of success
	participation in tasks related to Hungarian national values and Hungaricums	county and regional councils and the Hungaricum Committee	workshops 3. Safeguarding the beehive-rock study trail at Szomolya		municipal, county and regional councils, Hungaricum Committee		rocks	- Increase of services by 10% a year





4. Monitoring and communication

Progress on the implementation of the Action Plan will be assessed annually, by the national park administration. The evaluation of the different actions will be assessed by the partners (as collaborators) involved in the action plan.

The implementation of the measures will depend on the availability of financial and human resources. Some actions (e.g. investments) need higher financial investments, which should be covered by national and European funds. Several 'networking' actions have lower financial needs, so the main issue is to keep the conscious community together, which was established in the framework of the ECO KARST project.

The measures defined in this Action Plan should serve as a background document for the Nature Conservation Management Plan and the separate Natura 2000 management plans, if they the will be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.





5. Annexes:

Annex I - Ecosystem condition map

Annex II-BIOMAP for Action A1.2

Annex III - BIOMAP for Action B1.1 & B1.2

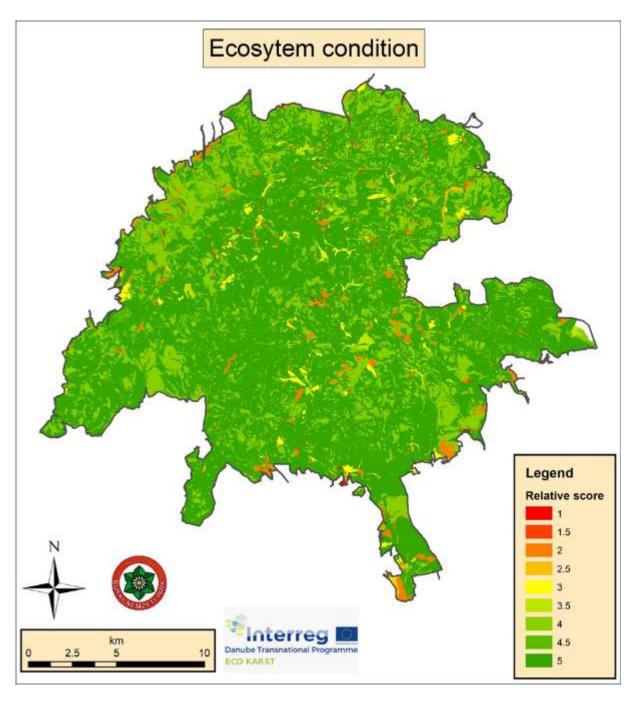
Annex IV - BIOMAP for Action E1.1

Annex V - BIOMAP for Action F2.2 & F2.3 & H1.1

Annex VI - List of stakeholders and external experts involved in the preparation of the action plan



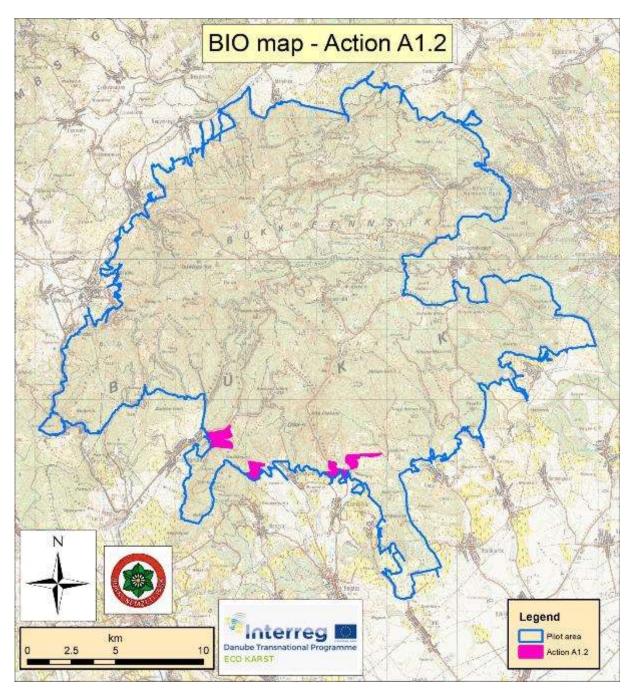




Annex I.: Ecosystem condition map



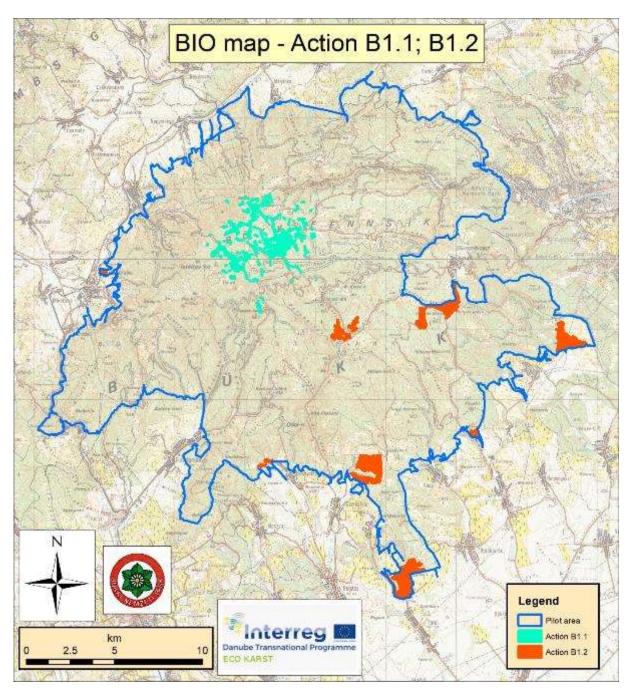




Annex II – BIOMAP for Action A1.2



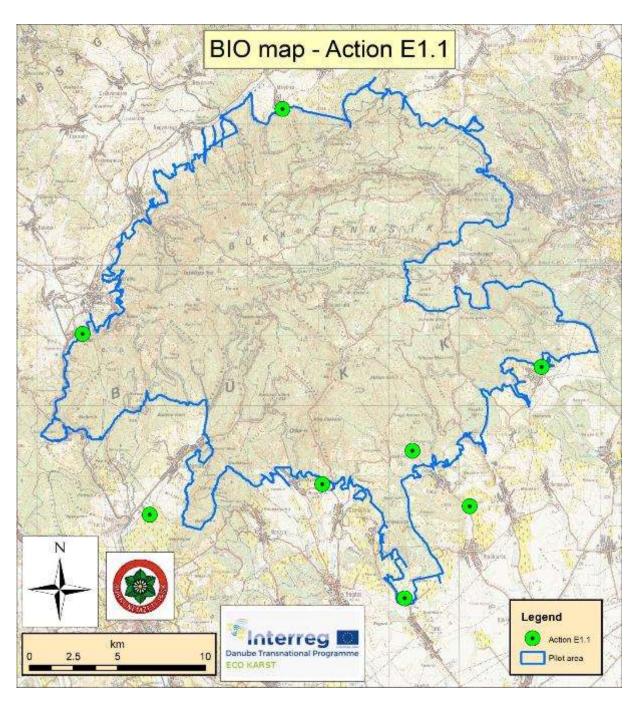




Annex III - BIOMAP for Action B1.1 & B1.2



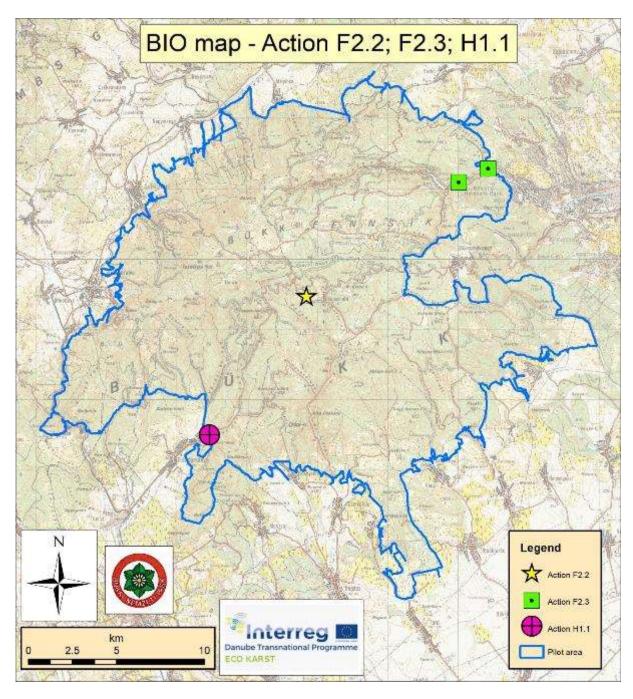




Annex IV - BIOMAP for Action E1.1







Annex V - BIOMAP for Action F2.2 & F2.3 & H1.1



ZöldAkcióEgyesület



Annex VI - List of stakeholders involved in the preparation of the action plan:

Organisation	Field
Agrárminisztérium NPTF	Authority (ministry)
Barlang Bt.	Entrepreneur
BAZ MegyeiKatasztrófavédelmilgazgatóság	Authority
BAZ MKH MJH	Authority
Környezetvédelmiés Természetvédelmi Főosztály	
BükkiTermészetvédelmi,	NGO
KulturálisésÖkoturisztikai Aklapítvány	
Büxirup	Entrepreneur
Eger VárosiTurisztikaiKözhasznú Nonprofit Kft.	Tourism
	organization
EgererdőZrt.	Forestry enterprise
ÉletfaKörnyezetvédőSzövetség	NGO
ÉrmellékiTermészetvédelmiEgyesület	NGO
EszterházyKárolyEgyetem	Education
EszterházyKárolyEgyetem TTK BI	Education
EszterházyKárolyEgyetem TTK FKI	Education
Garamond 91 Kft.	SME
HevesMegyeiTermészetbarátSzövetség	NGO
InnoTime Hungary Kft	SME
KaptárkőKulturálisésTermészetvédelmiEgyesület	NGO
Magyar Madártaniés Természetvédel mi Egyesület	NGO
MIDMAR Kft, Miskolc TDM	Tourism
	organization
MTA ÖkológiaiKutatóközpont	ES expert (external)
Nemzeti Agrárgazdasági Kamara Heves Megyeilgazgatóság	Chamber
	organization
NoszvajKözségiÖnkormányzat	Municipality
Öko-Park Panzió	SME
RépáshutaKözségÖnkormányzata	Municipality
SzalakótaEgyesület 	NGO
SzilvásváradKözségÖnkormányzata	Municipality
SzilvásváradiTúrakerékpáros Klub	SME
Tard KözségÖnkormányzata	Municipality

NGO