



**Interreg**



EUROPEAN UNION

**Danube Transnational Programme**

**URBforDAN**

**URBforDAN Strategic parts of Integrated multi-  
use Management Plans**

Budapest





## Strategic parts of Integrated multi-use Management Plans: BUDAPEST

### 1.1 The objective of strategic plan

The aim of the Strategic part of the Integrated multi-use management plans (IMMP) is to identify demands towards urban and peri-urban forests (UPF), potential conflicts between different forest uses, to define strategic long-term management objectives in UPF, and to define priorities amongst management objectives and ecosystem services (ES). The strategic part also defines management guidelines that represent the basis for the definition of operational goals and measures.

### 1.2. The planning process and participation

This plan was prepared by the Municipality of Budapest and the Fókert Zrt. by involving the stakeholders of the URBforDAN project and external experts.

The Municipality of Budapest and the Fókert Zrt. organised workshops where the stakeholders could express their opinion about the existing problems and the possible solutions relating to the project area. Also the outcomes of the online survey carried out among users were used during planning.

The the ecosystem services (ES) of the Hármashatár Hill were mapped by a group of external experts, the Interspect Ltd.

The document was prepared in line with the mid- and long term development strategies of Budapest, such as Budapest2020 and Budapest2030<sup>1</sup>, which are the strategic development documents, Climate strategy of Budapest<sup>2</sup> and the Smart City Vision of Budapest<sup>3</sup>, spatial plan of Budapest. Also, the forest management plans of the concerning area and legal acts, such as the Nature Conservation Act<sup>4</sup> and the Forest Act<sup>5</sup> were taken into consideration.

### 1.3 Legal basis

The legal framework of the strategic management plan were the Hungarian Forestry Act<sup>5</sup>, the Regulations on Forest planning and management, and the Forest management plans of Hármashatár Hill. These documents were taken into considerations.

### 1.4 Terminology

**Urban forests** - networks or systems comprising all woodlands, groups of trees, and individual trees located in urban and peri-urban areas; they include, therefore, forests, street trees, trees in parks and gardens, and trees in derelict corners (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2016)<sup>1</sup>.

**Ecosystem services** – the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling (Millenium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA), 2005)<sup>2</sup>.

Public participation – a voluntary process whereby people, individually or through organized groups, can exchange information, express opinions and articulate interests, and have the potential to influence decisions or the outcome of the matter at hand (Public participation..., 2000)<sup>3</sup>.

## 2 ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF THE ART

### 2.1 Basic data on the strategic area

The strategic area Hármashatár Hill is lying on the hilly Buda side in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Budapest. The area is surrounded by the landscape protection area of Buda which is part of the Natura 2000 network (HUDI20009). This area is one of the most frequent ones for tourists heading to Buda-hills as it is located in the direct neighbourhood of Szépvölgyi residential area easily accessible by public transport, cycling or foot. The strategic area is about 553 hectares.

The woody project area was formerly (in the 70's) prepared for real estate investment purposes but just some cottages were built, later they were abandoned and ruined. At the moment we can identify 6 isolated paved areas in the wood used for car parking. 6 of these are definitely more than needed for the purpose of tourism, sport and leisure activities though the area is also close to a paragliding departure point, to a quarry where rock climbing is popular and some hiking trails are accessible from this area. The quality of the woodland for the above mentioned reasons (construction works) is poor, and illegal waste deposition is regular.

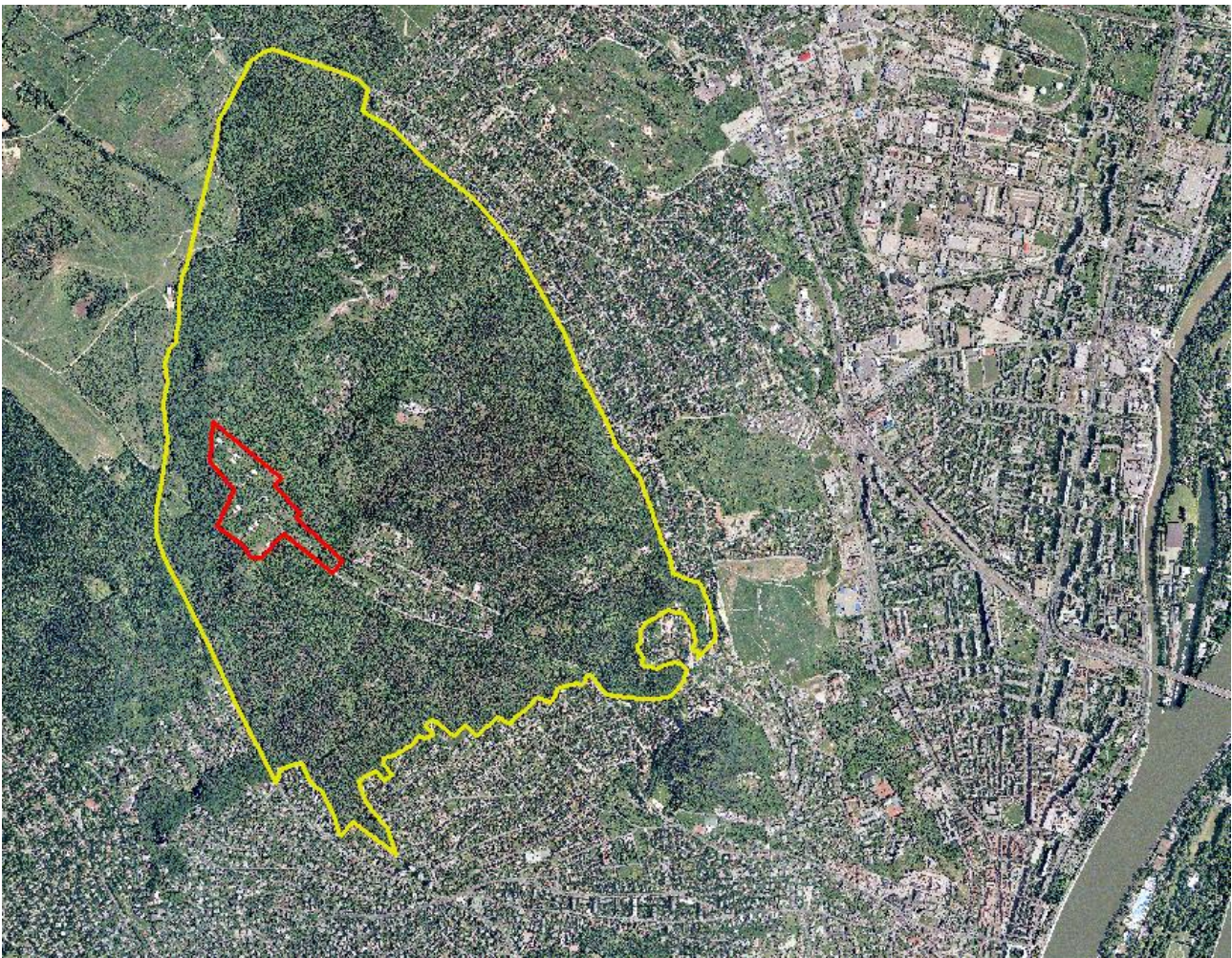


Figure 1: The strategic area (yellow, about 553 ha), pilot area is marked red

## Ownership of the focus area

The total area of the target area is 156 414 m<sup>2</sup>, the Municipality of Budapest owns 107 362 m<sup>2</sup> and the Municipality of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Budapest owns 49 052 m<sup>2</sup> (figure 2.).

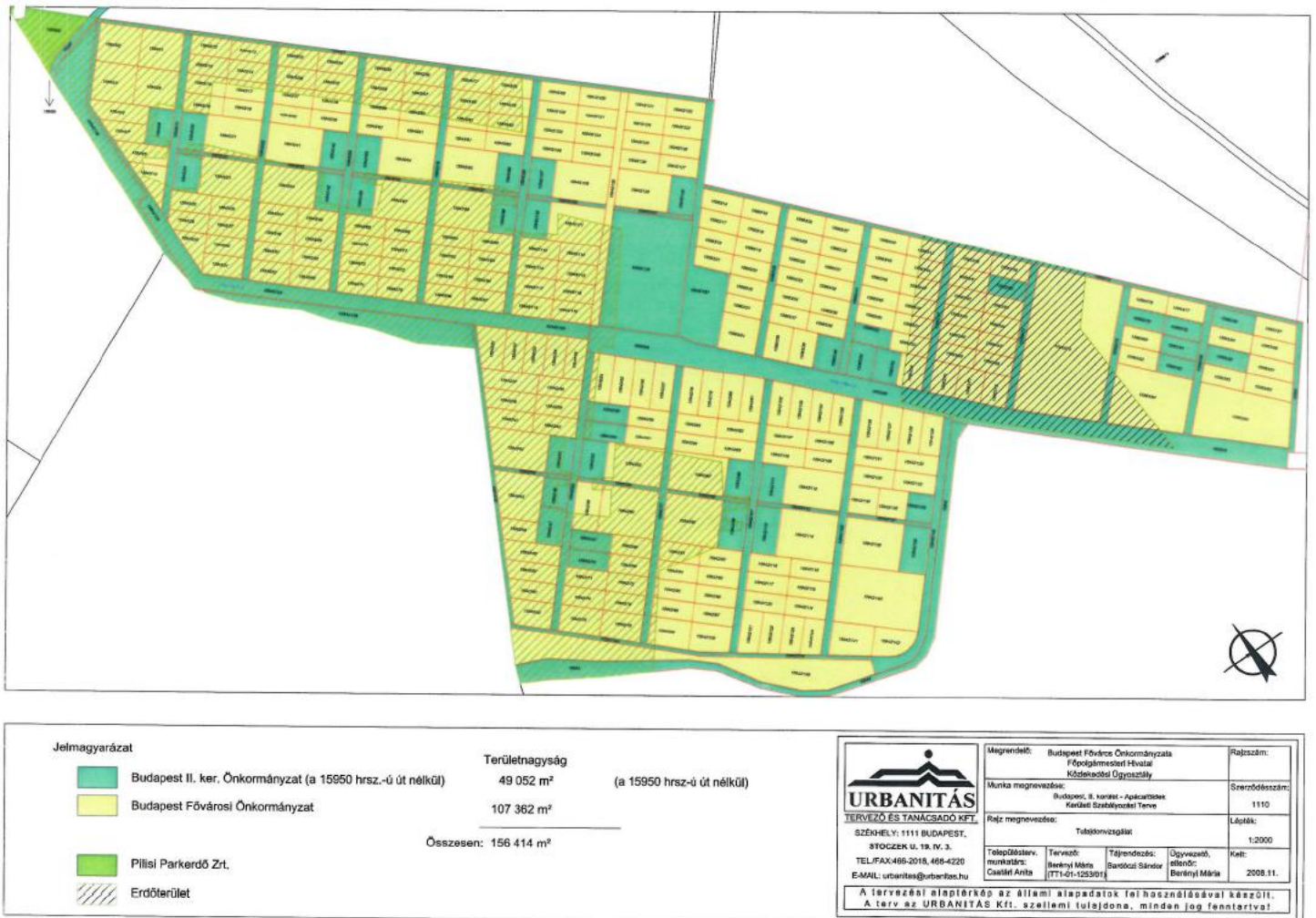
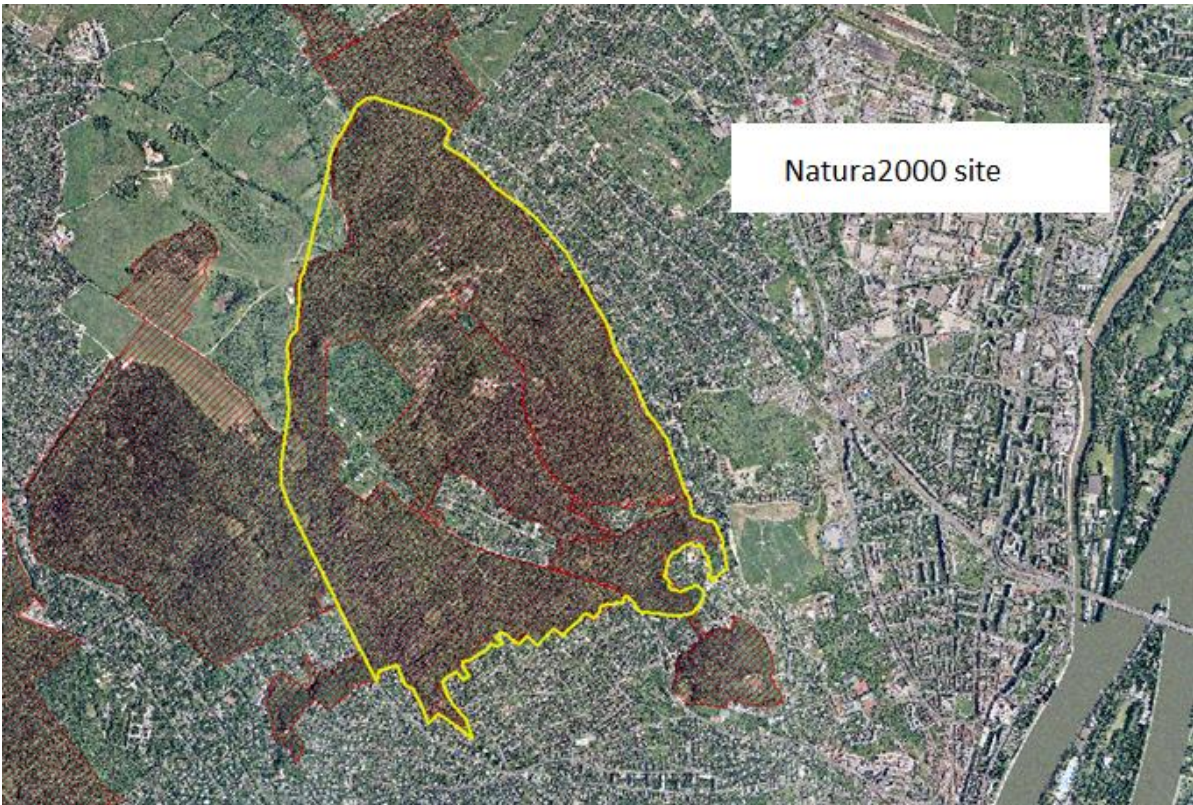
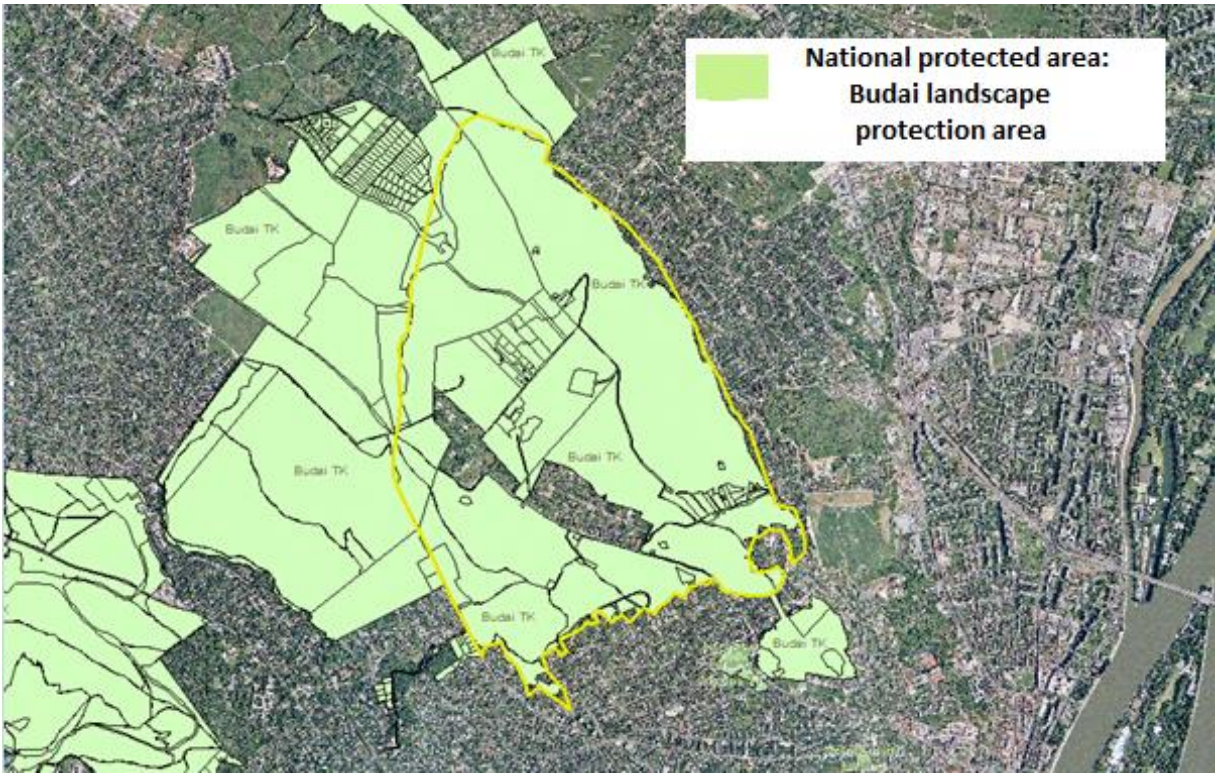


Figure 2. Ownership of the focus area



## 2.2 Ecosystem services in UPF

Relevant ecosystem services (ES) for our strategic area - Hármashatár hill:

1. **Wood/Timber production.** Commercial logging is not significant in the area, so potential timber production is not so important, but shows very well the regeneration potential of the forest.
2. **Non Wood forest product.** Areas where environmental conditions are suitable for non wood forest products such as mushrooms and berries.
3. **Local Climate and Air Quality.** Areas covered by good quality forest with positive effect on air quality and climate, while degraded and built-up area have negative impact.
4. **Recreation and tourism.** The area is one of the most frequent ones for tourists heading to Buda-hills as it is located in the direct neighbourhood of Szépvölgyi residential area, easily accessible by public transport, cycling or foot. Whole Hármashatár hill is important for recreation and tourism as it is fragmented by a network of tourist paths.
5. **Important habitats and biodiversity.** The Hármashatár hill is lying on the hilly Buda side in the 2nd and 3rd District of Budapest. A part of the area belongs to the Budai Landscape Protection Area which is also part of the Natura 2000 network (HUDI20009).

**Table: Summary of the most important ES (In the table, you should include all the ES you mapped with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rank and the area in ha)**

Ecosystem service (ES) – area (ha) and % of entire forest area – only 1 <sup>st</sup> rank and 2 <sup>nd</sup> rank	Individual objective/ES	% of entire forest area
Provisioning ES	11_Timber production	43 %
	12_Non-timber products	43 %
Regulating ES	21_Local climate mitigation	94 %
	22_Local air quality	49%
Supporting ES	31_Nature protection / habitats for species	80%
Cultural ES	41_Recreation and tourism	68 %
	42_Scientific / educational	9 %
	43_Cultural heritage	3 %

## 2.3 Target groups

With the help of community planning, brainstorming and a survey the Municipality of Budapest and the FŐKERT Zrt. identified several stakeholder groups relating to the project area, which are the following: the owners, forestry companies, national park, non-governmental associations, sport associations, nature organizations, utility companies and service providers.

The first is the group of forest owners which contains the Municipality of Budapest and the Municipality of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Budapest. These two entities own the focus area. The Pilisi Parkerdő Zrt. is responsible for the management of the forests around the focus area at the Hármashatár Hill, which is owned by the Hungarian State (all together: strategic area). The Duna- Ipoly National Park Directorate is in charge for the nature conservation of the Buda Landscape Protection area and Natura2000 sites.

The FŐKERT Zrt., the horticultural company of the Municipality of Budapest takes part in the project as project partner. The strategy will help these institutions to achieve sustainable use and sustainable improvement of the urban forest.

Other important target group is the group of the users of the Hármashatár Hill. Tourists, hikers, cyclists, paragliders, runners, families belongs to the users all together. We can include, here, the associations relating to sport activities (f.e. Hungarian Paragliding Association) and nature protection (f.e. MME).

Educational institutions such as primary schools, other students, families will benefit from the development of the awareness raising possibilities, like study trails, information boards, outdoor classroom or the bird hide.

### 3 THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

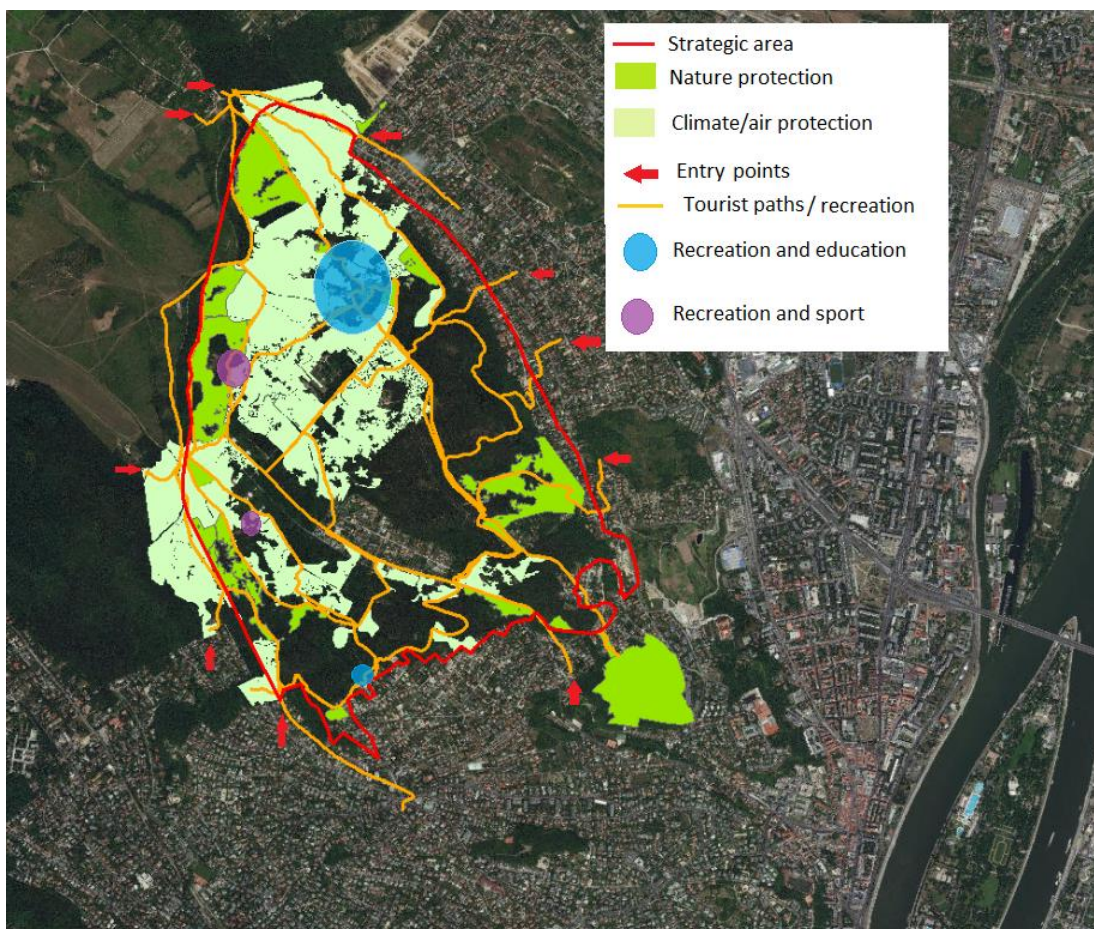
The strategic priorities of Budapest are:

- to **improve air quality and tackling climate change;**
- to **protect the nature and to increase the level of biodiversity,**
- to **develop recreational infrastructure** while preserving ES at the Hármashatár Hill.
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Our aim is to improve the quality of the peri-urban forest and alongside the improvement of the touristic infrastructure, as a result, we expect higher biodiversity and much continuity with the surrounding nature conservation area by the amelioration of the quality and by increasing the surface of the woodland in the pilot site.

### 4 THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT OF UPF

The aim of the spatial development concept is to find where we can give back degraded parts of UPF to nature and to direct the visitors in the strategic area.



## 5 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

### 5.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

The goal is to improve the quality of the forest and alongside the improvement of the touristic infrastructure achieve higher biodiversity and much continuity with the surrounding nature conservation area by the amelioration of the quality and by increasing the surface of the woodland.

Strategic objective	<b><i>Development of recreational infrastructure while preserving ecosystem services</i></b>
State (SWOT)	<p><i>Strengths:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>close to the city center</i></li> <li>• <i>lung of the city</i></li> <li>• <i>Natura2000 and national protected landscape area near to the focus area</i></li> <li>• <i>high-level of biodiversity</i></li> <li>• <i>water supply is available</i></li> <li>• <i>public transportation</i></li> <li>• <i>easy connection to other rest areas, view point, belvedere in the Hármashatár Hill</i></li> <li>• <i>cultural heritage (border stone) at the focus area</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Weaknesses:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>uncoordinated parking system</i></li> <li>• <i>illegal landfilling</i></li> <li>• <i>lack of signpost, information board</i></li> <li>• <i>lack of toilets</i></li> <li>• <i>lack of community spaces</i></li> <li>• <i>homeless people live in the forest</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Possibilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>development of accessibility by public transport</i></li> <li>• <i>control of safe and ordinated parking</i></li> <li>• <i>control of mass tourism</i></li> <li>• <i>water supply is available</i></li> <li>• <i>installing of open air classroom</i></li> <li>• <i>installing of playground</i></li> <li>• <i>installing of study trail and bird-hide</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Threats:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>conflict with homeless people</i></li> <li>• <i>conflict with residents/bikers</i></li> <li>• <i>fund is not enough for the implementation of everything</i></li> <li>• <i>increasing in the maintenance budget</i></li> <li>• <i>vandalism</i></li> </ul>
<b>Guideline</b>	<b><i>Management of recreational infrastructure</i></b>
Detailed directions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Arrangement and maintenance of study trail</i></li> <li>• <i>Arrangement and maintenance of bird-hide</i></li> <li>• <i>Arrangement and maintenance of open air classroom</i></li> </ul>



Responsible entity:	<i>Municipality of Budapest and FŐKERT Zrt.</i>
Needed participation:	<i>Municipality of Budapest, Municipality of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Budapest, FŐKERT, Pilisi Parkerdő Zrt.</i>
Coordination with other ES:	<i>Nature protection / habitats for species</i>
Positive outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>awareness-raising about forests</i></li> <li>• <i>new attractive areas</i></li> <li>• <i>relief of other urban forests from mass tourism</i></li> </ul>
Negative outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>increased visit and pressure on the focus area</i></li> <li>• <i>increased maintenance costs</i></li> </ul>
Legal basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>forest management plan<sup>9</sup></i></li> <li>• <i>decree of spatial municipality plan</i></li> <li>• <i>Forestry Act<sup>5</sup></i></li> <li>• <i>Nature protection Act<sup>4</sup></i></li> </ul>

## 5.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

*Priority to improve air quality and tackling climate change in Budapest.*

<b>Strategic objective</b>	<b><i>Climate protection/air quality improvement</i></b>
State (SWOT)	<p><i>Main strengths, weaknesses, possibilities and threats</i></p> <p><i>Strengths:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>close to the city centre</i></li> <li>• <i>lung of the city</i></li> <li>• <i>increasing the proportion of the green areas in the city</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Weaknesses:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>species composition is adverse; a large number of alien tree species</i></li> <li>• <i>fragmented forest cover</i></li> <li>• <i>parking cars and traffic in the forest area</i></li> <li>• <i>air pollution</i></li> <li>• <i>load of dust</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Possibilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>development of continuous forest cover</i></li> <li>• <i>replacement of tree species</i></li> <li>• <i>favouring public transport</i></li> <li>• <i>regulation of traffic</i></li> <li>• <i>rationalisation of the actual parking system</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Threats:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>invasive tree species change the structure of the forest</i></li> <li>• <i>negative impact of climate change</i></li> <li>• <i>pressure from human activities</i></li> <li>• <i>lack of professional management</i></li> </ul>
<b>Guideline</b>	<b><i>Improving ecological state of the woodland, increasing coverage of green area</i></b>
Detailed directions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>replacement of alien tree species</i></li> <li>• <i>professional forest management</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>reducing environmental burden</i></li> <li>• <i>restore semi-natural areas</i></li> </ul>
Responsible entity:	<i>Municipality of Budapest and FŐKERT Zrt.</i>
Needed participation:	<i>Pilisi Parkerdő zrt. and the Municipality of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Budapest</i>
Coordination with other ES:	<i>Recreation and tourism</i>
Positive outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>continuous forest cover</i></li> <li>• <i>more diverse forests both structurally and in terms of species composition</i></li> <li>• <i>favouring public transport</i></li> <li>• <i>regulation of traffic</i></li> <li>• <i>rationalisation of parking system</i></li> <li>• <i>better air quality</i></li> <li>• <i>noise- reduction</i></li> <li>• <i>better water balance</i></li> <li>• <i>better habitat</i></li> </ul>
Negative outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>increasing maintenance costs</i></li> </ul>
Legal basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>forest management plan</i></li> <li>• <i>decree of spatial municipality plan</i></li> <li>• <i>Forestry Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Nature protection Act</i></li> </ul>

### 5.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

*The goal is to increase biodiversity and continuity with the surrounding nature conservation area.*

<b>Strategic objective</b>	<b>Nature protection/biodiversity</b>
State (SWOT)	<p><i>Main strengths, weaknesses, possibilities and threats</i></p> <p><i>Strengths:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>good condition of habitats</i></li> <li>• <i>high level of biodiversity</i></li> <li>• <i>presence of Natura2000 priority species</i></li> <li>• <i>part of the Natura2000 network</i></li> <li>• <i>national protected area</i></li> </ul>
	<p><i>Weaknesses:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>overuse</i></li> <li>• <i>significant degradation caused by human activities</i></li> <li>• <i>illegal landfilling</i></li> <li>• <i>illegal cycling and walking paths</i></li> <li>• <i>overgrowth of wild boar population</i></li> <li>• <i>homeless people</i></li> </ul>
	<p><i>Possibilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>promoting native species</i></li> <li>• <i>reconstruction of habitats</i></li> <li>• <i>hunting of overgrowth wild board population</i></li> <li>• <i>control of recreation and tourism</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>environmental education and awareness raising</i></li> <li>• <i>combating illegal cycling and walking paths</i></li> <li>• <i>combating illegal landfilling</i></li> </ul>
	<i>Treats:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>pressure from human activities</i></li> <li>• <i>lack of professional management</i></li> </ul>
<b>Guideline</b>	<b>Active management</b>
Detailed directions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>long-term planning</i></li> <li>• <i>disposal of illegal landfilling</i></li> <li>• <i>awareness-raising</i></li> <li>• <i>environmental education</i></li> <li>• <i>hunting of overgrowth wild board population</i></li> <li>• <i>control of recreation and tourism</i></li> </ul>
Responsible entity:	<i>Municipality of Budapest and FŐKERT Zrt.</i>
Needed participation:	<i>Pilisi Parkerdő Zrt., Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, Malteser and the Municipality of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Budapest</i>
Coordination with other ES:	<i>Recreation and tourism</i>
Positive outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>promotion of native species</i></li> <li>• <i>reconstruction of habitats</i></li> <li>• <i>semi-natural hunting</i></li> <li>• <i>controlled recreation and tourism</i></li> <li>• <i>fulfilment of awareness-raising and environmental education</i></li> <li>• <i>combating the illegal activities</i></li> </ul>
Negative outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>increasing maintenance costs and cleaning costs</i></li> <li>• <i>land-use conflicts</i></li> </ul>
Legal basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>forest management plan</i></li> <li>• <i>decree of spatial municipality plan</i></li> <li>• <i>Forestry Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Nature protection Act</i></li> </ul>

## 6. GOVERNANCE

The larger part of the strategic area is state-owned, managed by Pilisi Parkerdő Zrt., so the forestry company will have a key role in the management of these forests. As Pilisi Parkerdő Zrt. has already implemented several measures to manage forests in a sustainable way, the implementation of the strategic plan will lead them to reach their goals more effectively.

Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate has also huge role in the nature conservation management concerning the Natura2000 area and the Budai Landscape Protection Area on Hármashatár Hill, where they are responsible for the implementation of nature protection measures. The outcomes of the strategic plan will increase the effectiveness of their habitat restoration planning and work.

As for the project area which is owned by two municipalities of Budapest, the implementation and maintenance will be managed and financed by the municipalities.

## 7. REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> <http://budapest.hu/sites/english/Lapok/2017/budapest-urban-development-plans.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> [https://budapest.hu/Documents/klimastrategia/Bp\\_Klimastrategi%C3%A1ja\\_vegleges\\_KGY%20elfogadott.pdf](https://budapest.hu/Documents/klimastrategia/Bp_Klimastrategi%C3%A1ja_vegleges_KGY%20elfogadott.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://budapest.hu/Documents/V%C3%A1ros%C3%A9p%C3%ADt%C3%A9si%20F%C5%91oszt%C3%A1ly/Smart\\_Budapest\\_summary\\_ENG.pdf](https://budapest.hu/Documents/V%C3%A1ros%C3%A9p%C3%ADt%C3%A9si%20F%C5%91oszt%C3%A1ly/Smart_Budapest_summary_ENG.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=99600053.tv>

<sup>5</sup> <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0900037.tv>

<sup>6</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2016. Guidelines on urban and peri-urban forestry by F. Salbitano, S. Borelli, M. Conigliaro and Y. Chen. FAO Forestry Paper No. 178. Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

<sup>7</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. Island Press, Washington, DC

<sup>8</sup> [Public participation in forestry in Europe and North America](#), 2000. Report of the FAO/ECE/ILO Joint Committee team of specialists on participation in forestry, team leader Miles Wenner. Published by Sectorial Activities Department, International Labour Office, Geneva, 2000.

<sup>9</sup> <https://erdoterkep.nebih.gov.hu/>