

PROJECT INFORMATION

Sustainable strategies for the conservation of biodiversity in the cultural landscape of the Vértes Mountains (Hungary)

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Extensive steppe dry grasslands in the south-eastern Vértes Mountains

Source: Thomas Fartmann

Project country: Hungary
Duration: 03/2023 – 02/2026
Beneficiaries: Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate and other stakeholders responsible for the implementation of the Habitats Directive in the EU Birds and Natura 2000 site "Vértes"
Implementing entities: Osnabrück University
Project number: FKZ 3723 43 0001

Background

Because of the serious extent of the global extinction of species, the development of sustainable management strategies to protect biodiversity is currently one of the greatest challenges facing society. Although many species in decline throughout Europe still have intact populations in Hungary, the biodiversity in the cultural landscape of Hungary is increasingly threatened as a result of changed (agricultural) political and social conditions. With its accession to the EU, Hungary committed itself to counteracting this development by implementing the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive.

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Project details

The project aims to protect the biodiversity in the Natura 2000 site "Vértes" in Hungary. Together with experts from Hungary and with the help of applied research approaches, local biodiversity patterns and the influence of environmental parameters on various indicator groups are analysed – focussing on the examples of two priority habitat types of the Habitats Directive: steppe dry grasslands and calcareous grasslands. Based on this analysis and in a dialogue with local actors, specific proposals for measures and a guideline for the management of these grassland habitats will be developed. The exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge that will take place shall help to ensure that integrative measures for the conservation of these rare habitat types can also be taken in the project region in the future. The project activities in Hungary can also provide valuable information for nature and species conservation measures in Central and (North) Western Europe, including Germany. For this reason, results of the project will be published both in scientific publications and in a brochure.

Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

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