

EUROPEAN DIPLOMA HOLDING SITE

**IPOLYTARNOC FOSSILS
NATURE CONSERVATION AREA**

HUNGARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

**FOR THE PERIOD
NOVEMBER 1. 2013 - OKTOBER 31. 2014**



State/Country : H U N G A R Y

The Protected Area :

Name: Ipolytarnoc Fossils Nature Conservation Area

Postal address : H- 3138 Ipolytarnoc Pf.1. Hungary

Tel/Facsimile: +36 32 454 113

Person responsible: Imre Szarvas

Email: SzarvasI@bnpi.hu

Internet: <http://osmaradvanyok.hu>

Year of the award/Year of the last renewal/ Year until the award is renewed: 1995/2010/2020

Central authority concerned :

Name: Department of Nature Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture

Address: H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth tér 11. Hungary

Tel.:+36 1 795 2397

Fax:+36 1 795 0080

Person responsible: Érdiné Dr. Szekeres Rozália

Email: rozalia.szekeres.erdine@fm.gov.hu

Internet: <http://www.fm.gov.hu> , www.termeszetvedelem.hu

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Bükk National Park Directorate (BNPD)

Postal address : H - 3301 Eger Pf.116. Hungary

Tel: +36 36 411 581

Fax: +36 36 412 791

Person responsible: Dr. Ákos Horváth director

Email: titkarsag@bnpi.hu

Internet: <http://www.bnpi.hu>

1.Conditions:

The Resolution CM/ResDip(2010)15 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Ipolytarnóc Protected Area (Hungary) (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 September 2010 at the 1091st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies) renewed the Diploma to Ipolytarnoc Fossils until 11 September 2020. During the renewal no special conditions were specified.

2.Recommendations:

The Resolution CM/ResDip(2010)15 attached the following 5 recommendations to the renewal:

I.. Recognising the site's high potential for further discoveries of geological interest, research – especially the palaeontological excavations – should continue; all appropriate measures should be taken to preserve and, if possible, exhibit the natural resources; the results of scientific research should be made publicly available;

Action taken by the site to comply with the recommendation:

New areas with fossil footprints have been excavated along the geological study trail and the presence of new animal species have been identified this year. The site provides high-tech interpretation techniques of the prehistoric habitat, gained scientific knowledge is on display and new papers have been made accessible and downloadable on the site's website.

II. The site should take an active role in the management of the Slovak-Hungarian transborder Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark, in order to preserve and interpret the natural assets of the region and to become a focal, multilingual information point for geotourism;

Action taken by the site to comply with the recommendation:

The trans-boundary Novohrad-Nograd Geopark with the essential endorsement of the BNPD, became member of the European and Global Geoparks Networks in 2010. After 4 years the revalidation process of the Geopark took place this year with the experts' special visit to Ipolytarnoc, which is the main gateway to the Geopark. After seeing the site the evaluators confirmed the positive outcome for the revalidation.

As the scientific centre of the geopark, Ipolytarnoc is a driving force in order to preserve the geological heritage of the whole geopark and it advocates its resources to the visitors during special events, like the usual Geopark Week at the turn of May.

An example of international recognition: a special Thai expert group visited the site to consult on the successful creation of geoparks.

III. The entrance to the protected area should have an appropriate gateway displaying information in order to control tourism within the site and the buffer zone; the buildings along the geological trail should be further integrated into the landscape; the power line that runs between the village and the visitor centre should be replaced with an underground cable;

Action taken by the site to comply with the new recommendation:

There is panel emplaced in front of the entrance gate, QR code and old Hungarian script alphabet are used beside Hungarian, Slovak and English languages to inform visitors about the site. Due to fire-protection restrictions vegetation cover of buildings can not be adopted. the newer buildings are more organically blend into the landscape. There is a new project plan to restructure the visitor information system, it includes landscape oriented extended buildings erected above excavation areas, in place of the old alien structures.

Although there are no new developments with the power line's replacement, yet the very same plan focuses on the laying of underground cable. We try to apply for funds to achieve this till 2020.

IV. The gradual replacement of the exotic trees with indigenous species should be continued by assisting the natural succession process through ecologically sensitive land management practices; the control of game – causing considerable damage to vegetation and protected animal species – should be continued;

Action taken by the site to comply with the recommendation:

A larger scale forestry activity goes on covering some 10 hectares, where the former acacia forest section's transformation by indigenous tree samplings is going well. Game management is an ongoing activity throughout the year, since the whole area is a specially designated hunting area managed by the BNPD.

V. The balance between open spaces and wooded areas on the western side of the conservation area, close to the nearby settlement, should be maintained to preserve the mosaic structure of the landscapes there;

Action taken by the site to comply with the recommendation:

Effective animal husbandry, racka sheep grazing and hay cutting activities manage the mosaic-like structure of open spaces with forested areas at the buffer zone of the Fossils. In the border zone tree thinning on forest edges also maintains the mixed vegetation cover of the landscape.

3.Site Management:

The BNPD provides leadership and special management work from the Headquarters. The site itself has 3 in situ permanent staff members (including 2 rangers with law enforcement licenses) running the site all around the year. They are a bit overextended, since they have to supervise the contracted partners and seasonal workers as well, beside the daily management. As a geotourism centre the Fossils provided, with extensions, a year-long seasonal work opportunity for the locally unemployed

of the nearby 4 settlements. With the extra help of these 35 seasonal workers the site could meet the demands of the successful management this year.

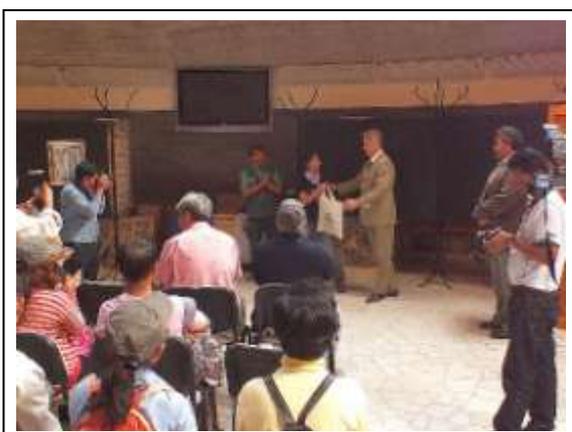
4.Boundaries:

No boundary changes concerned the site, its buffer and core zones are well defined.

5.Other information:

During the reevaluation of the Tentative List of the Hungarian World Heritage Sites the Ipolytarnoc Fossils was reenlisted this year. The site celebrated its 70 anniversary for the protection status with special events, more than 35 thousand people visited it in 2014.

For detailed developments, please check on the Fossils website : <http://osmaradvanyok.hu>



Thai Experts' Visit

Thai specialists came to Ipolytarnóc in September to consult on the creation of geoparks, on petrified trees and the fossil resources of the Miocene Park of the site.



Track Discovery

Prof. L. Kordos interprets the footprinted sandstone features to the media.
Sensational new animal species have been identified on the geological trail.



Visitors at the Bükkábrány trees

Several groups from overseas visited the famous 7 million-year-old bükkábrány trees this year.