



PROJECT INFORMATION

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



Extensive steppe dry grasslands in the south-eastern Vértes Hills

Source: Thomas Fartmann

Background

Because of the serious extent of the global extinction of species, the development of sustainable land 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.

Project details

Together with experts from Hungary and with the help of established research approaches, local biodiversity patterns and the influence of environmental parameters on various indicator groups have been 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 have been developed and recommendations for the management of these grassland habitats have been drafted. The exchange of experience that has started will facilitate that integrative measures for the conservation of these rare habitat types can be taken in the project region also in the future. A brochure summarises the key findings of the research. The project activities in Hungary have also provided 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 also in scientific publications.

Updated: May 2026

Project country: Hungary

Duration: 03/2023 – 05/2026

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

Thematic management:

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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, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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www.uba.de/en/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme

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Project website:

https://bit.ly/Vértes_en