Financial mechanisms to support sustainable management of Natura 2000 habitats in forests and farmlands.

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Ministry of Rural Development
Protected areas and Natura 2000 sites in Hungary

- Protected areas
- Natura 2000 and Protected area

Map showing the distribution of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites in Hungary.
Land cover on protected areas

Protected areas

- Forest: 47%
- Uncultivated area: 11%
- Arable land: 12%
- Grassland: 26%

Natura 2000 areas

- Fishpond: 39%
- Reeds: 27%
- Wineyard, orchard: 25%

Legend:
- Forest
- Uncultivated area
- Arable land
- Grassland
- Fishpond
- Reeds
- Wineyard, orchard
## Regulation of landuse practices in Natura 2000 farmland areas

<table>
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<th>Protected Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natura 2000 and Protected area</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Management commitments of land use contracts between the national park directorates and farmers
- Total area owned by the NPD: ~300 000 hectares protected area

### Acts on the management plans of protected areas
- For each protected area in form of an act of the minister responsible for nature cons.

### Act on Nature Conservation no. LIII of 1996
- Activities to be permitted: drainage of inland waters
- Activities to be reported: mowing, grazing.
- Forbidden activities: the surface of the grassland must not be permanently injured

### 269/2007. (X. 18.) governmental regulation on landuse prescriptions of the Natura 2000 grassland areas
- Activities to be permitted: removal of trees, ploughing up of grasslands

### 275/2004 (X. 8.) governmental regulation on the rules of Natura 2000 areas
- Activities to be permitted: removal of trees, ploughing up of grasslands

#### Voluntary taken land use prescriptions
Basic conception

<table>
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Financial funds of nature conservation importance (2007-2013)
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
3 860 091 392 euro

- Measures with nature conservation relevance
- Other rural development measures

213 Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC
214 (A) Agri-environment payments
214 (B) Preservation of genetic resources
216 Support for non-productive investments
221 First afforestation of agricultural land
222 First establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land
223 First afforestation of non-agricultural land
225 Forest-environment payments
226 Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions
227 Support for non-productive investments
323 – Elaboration of Natura 2000 management plans
Results, lessons learned and plans for the future

- Natura 2000 payments
- Agri-environement and forest-environment payments
- Assistance for non productive investments
- Elaboration of Natura 2000 management plans
Natura 2000 payments for grasslands

- Grasslands must be utilised by grazing and/or mowing at least once a year.
- The following animal species can only be grazed: cattle, sheep, goat, donkey, horse and buffalo
- Grasslands must not be overgrazed
- The surface of the grassland must not be permanently injured during nutrient management activities.
- Nutrient supply for the grassland only through manure of grazing animals, other ways of manure application on grassland is prohibited
- Minimum 5% and maximum 10% of the subsidized area – including areas as well where the authority orders occasionally obligatory limitations due conservation reasons – has to be left unharvested by every mowing on different parts of the field.
- Drainage of inland waters, and irrigation of grassland is prohibited
- Mechanical mowing is prohibited from sunup till sunset
- Grazing between 31 October and 23 April and wiping out reed has to be officially permitted by the competent authority
- The field should be mown from the centre of the field outwards without creating isolated islands of uncut grassland where animals do not have escape routes towards the edges. Using an alarm chain while mowing is compulsory in order to help games to escape
- Settling and further spread of invasive and alien species can be prevented by mechanical methods or special treatment (e.g. targeted chemical use), the population of these species has to be controlled, other chemical use is prohibited.
- The provisional date of mowing should be reported to the relevant national park directorate in written form at least 5 working days in advance.
- Storage of fodder plants on grassland is prohibited
Natura 2000 payments for grasslands

The dire necessity to lay down compulsory land use prescriptions on Natura 2000 grasslands
Natura 2000 payments for grasslands

Results:

2007/2008 – 72 thousand hectares
2012/2013 – 250 thousand hectares

Increase in the public acceptance and positive judgement of the Natura 2000 network
Natura 2000 payments for forests

**Objective:** compensation for the prescriptions specified in the forestry plan for the Natura 2000 designation

**Start of scheme:** 2012.

**Allocated financial sources:** 35,8 million euro

**Eligible area:** 183,222 ha private ownership Natura 2000 forest area involved in forestry planning

**Amount of support:** depending on naturality category and within that varying by age classes and forest stand types (40 – 200 euro/ha/year)

**Supported area:** 96,758 ha

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age classes/forest stand type groups</th>
<th>Oak and beech</th>
<th>Other indigenous hard broadleaves</th>
<th>Other indigenous soft broadleaves</th>
<th>Other forests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5 years</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-20 years</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-60 years</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 years – cutting age</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>170</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>above cutting age</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Agri-environment payments

- Great bustard protection
- Crane and wild goose species protection
- Bird and game species protection
- Red-footed falcon protection
- Great bustard protection
- Grassland habitat protection
- Arable-grassland conversion

Complicated schemes with higher payments (116-310 EUR/ha)
Areas with High Nature Values in Hungary, 2009
Agri-environment payments

• Started in 11 pilot areas in 2002
  – 480 000 ha eligible area, 120 000 ha contracted

• 25 HNVA-s in 2009
  – 900 000 ha eligible, 214 000 ha contracted
  – 50% of the designated High Nature Value Farmland Areas is part of the Natura 2000 network as well.

• Characteristic prescriptions
  – Late mowing (15th June-31st July)
  – No overgrazing
  – Bird friendly harvesting methods
  – No water drainage
  – Crop structures
  – Limited pesticide use, chemical-free field margins (3-6 m)
  – Buffer zones around nests (50*50 m)
  – Mosaic-like management methods
  – Obligatory communication with national park directorates (nest, harvesting)
# Agri-environment payments

### Zonal agri-environmental schemes for High Nature Value Farmland Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme Description</th>
<th>Contracted area (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arable farming scheme with habitat improvement specifications for Great Bustard</td>
<td>62,922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arable farming scheme with habitat improvement specifications for Wild Goose and Crane</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arable farming scheme with specifications of habitat improvement for Red-footed Falcon</td>
<td>2,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arable farming scheme with specifications of habitat improvement for birds and small game</td>
<td>34,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland management scheme with specifications of habitat improvement for Great Bustard</td>
<td>82,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland management scheme with specifications of habitat improvement</td>
<td>28,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature conservation land use scheme for the conversion of arable land into grassland management</td>
<td>4,453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total contracted area: 214,622 ha
Agri-environment payments

- Contracted area (ha)
- Contracted farmers (p)
Forest-environment payments

1. Repression of aggressively expanding non-indigenous tree and shrub species
2. Selection forest management
3. Conversion of forest stands and maintenance based on manual work
4. Reduction of clear-cutting with artificial regeneration
5. Ensuring special forest habitats, and the conditions for natural forest regeneration
   • Creation and maintenance of micro-habitats
   • Leaving groups of trees after final felling
   • Bush regulation to ensure the success of forest regeneration
6. Postponement of final felling in order to protect soil and habitat
7. Maintenance of forests for public welfare purposes
8. Creation and maintenance of forest clearings
9. Application of environmentally friendly materials handling methods

Supported area: 19064,63 ha
Allocated financial sources: 41,3 million euro

Experiences: The most favourable schemes are the selection forest management and the environmental friendly materials handling methods.
Assistance to non-productive investments

The following assets are eligible for support:
- wooden fence on grasslands
- instruments for bird protection

Investments in area use:
- plantation of hedgerows at the edge of agricultural lots
- plantation of field-protecting trees
- establishment of grass margins
- winter refuge for insects that secure the living conditions
- establishment of grasslands

In Natura 2000 areas: Justification of the competent national park directorate is needed.
Assistance to non-productive investments

I. Improving forestry potential
   • 1.a) Conversion of structure with reforestation under a forest stand,
   • 1.b) Conversion of structure after clear cutting,
   • 1.c) Conversion of structure with completion of stand.

II. Establishment of public welfare and touristic facilities
    (Park forest, picnic place, resting place)

Supported area: 4360 ha (2009-2011)
Amount of support: 5,8 million euro
The scheme has been opened in 2012 and 2013, and is about to open again in 2014, the total amount of support and the supported area are expected to double accordingly
Elaboration of Natura 2000 management plans

Affected area: 244 Natura 2000 sites, 480,000 ha
Allocated financial sources: 2 million euro
Deadline: end of 2014

- Assessment of areas
- Definitions of proposals and recommendations for short, medium and long-term measures needed to improve the status of areas
- Assessing conflicts of interest
- Provides basis for the development of Natura specific support measures
- Every groups concerned know the reasons and aspects of the designation of areas, the values of the areas and the farming possibilities
- Provides a general orientation concerning land use (e.g. for investments) and farming possibilities
- Open planning – the groups concerned are allowed to be involved in the contractive cooperation during the planning process
Overall results

• Direct significant impact on biodiversity
• Raising of environmental awareness
• 1000s of farmers gain money through nature conservation
• Strengthening the relations between land users and nature conservationists

What must be developed...

• **Monitoring** network (feedback to scheme planning, and area designation)
• Prescriptions adopted to local circumstances – **Farm-level planning** of the land-use prescriptions with the assistance of an advisory system, and consideration of the characteristics of local environment when defining management requirements.
• **Harmonized prescription-lists** for every measures (AE, Natura 2000, LFA etc.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Műv. ág.</th>
<th>Típus</th>
<th>ELŐÍRÁSOK:</th>
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<td>K1: kötelező (HMKÁ)</td>
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<td>K2: kötelező (JFGK)</td>
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<td>K3: kötelező: EMVA 31. cikk</td>
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<td>V: választható</td>
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</table>

| Kategória | Megjegyzés | általános AKG | MTÉT | KAT | NÉZ | NITRÁT | BELVE | ASZALY | TÁL/GAZD | PARTKENT/PSÁV | ÖKO | INYESBÁLT (minősítés) | Gazdálkodási korlátozás mérteleme | Környezeti hatás mértéke | hatékonyúsági index |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MG | általános | K1 | K1 | K1 | K1 | K1 | K1 | K1 | K1 |
| MG | művelési mód | Tarló, nád, növényi maradvány valamint gyepek égetése tilos |
| MG | művelési mód | Vízzel telített talajon mindennemű gépi munkavégzés tilos. |
| MG | művelési mód | Nemkívánatos fás szárú növények megtelepedését és terjedését meg kell akadályozni. |
| MG | művelési mód | Öntözési célú vízhasználat csak érvényes vízjogi üzemeltetési engedély alapján végezhető |
| MG | művelési mód | Vízvédelmi sávokra vonatkozó előírások |
| MG | növényvédelem | A mezőgazdasági területeket gyommentesen kell tartani. |
| SZ | művelési ág váltás | szántóterület gyepesítése |
| SZ | művelési ág váltás | vizes élőhelyek létrehozása |
| SZ | fődhasználati terv | fődhasználati terv |
| SZ | tápanyagutánpótlás | bővitett talajviszgálat |
| SZ | tápanyagutánpótlás | tápanyagadákdalas terv |
| SZ | tápanyagutánpótlás | zölditrágya (1x/5 év) |
| SZ | tápanyagutánpótlás | tápanyagutánpótlás (N hatóa < 90 kg/ha/év) |
| SZ | tápanyagutánpótlás | tápanyagutánpótlás (N hatóa < 170 kg/ha/év) |
| SZ | tápanyagutánpótlás | pillangós termesztése esetén (5 éven keresztül): tilos tápanyagutánpótlás |
| SZ | tápanyagutánpótlás | pillangós termesztése esetén (5 éven keresztül): telepítéskor tápanyagutánpótlás (N hatóa < 90 kg/ha/év) |