

Tourism infrastructure in protected areas

the Hungarian approach

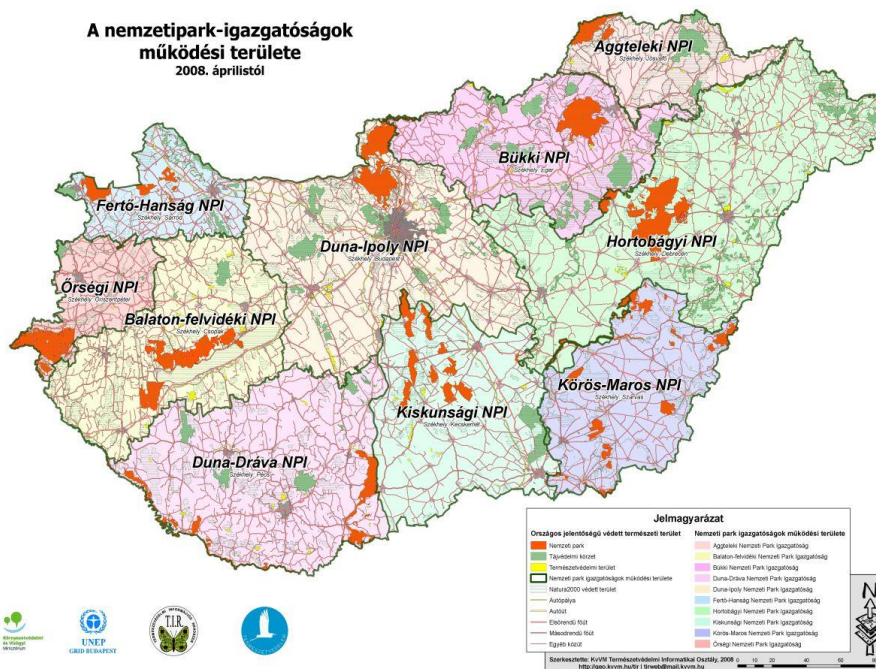


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A nemzeti park-igazgatóságok működési területe
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Why is it needed?

- provide information on the natural and many times related cultural assets
- raise public awareness
- support nature education
- not to let everybody to go anywhere
- keep negative impacts of visitation on the minimum
- let city people to have a rest in nature





History (1973-2003)

- at the beginning there was nothing...
- existing tourism attractions in the young national parks (organized by tourism agencies)
- marked walking/hiking trails in the hilly parts of the country
- a few nature trails, guesthouses, exhibits operated by the national park directorates
- from the early 90's
 - *zonation systems established for all the parks*
 - *purchase of protected land by the State*

State of the play – I.

Since 2004, thanks to EU funds hundreds of objects serving nature-oriented tourism have been built.

Owners of tourism infrastructure in order of importance:

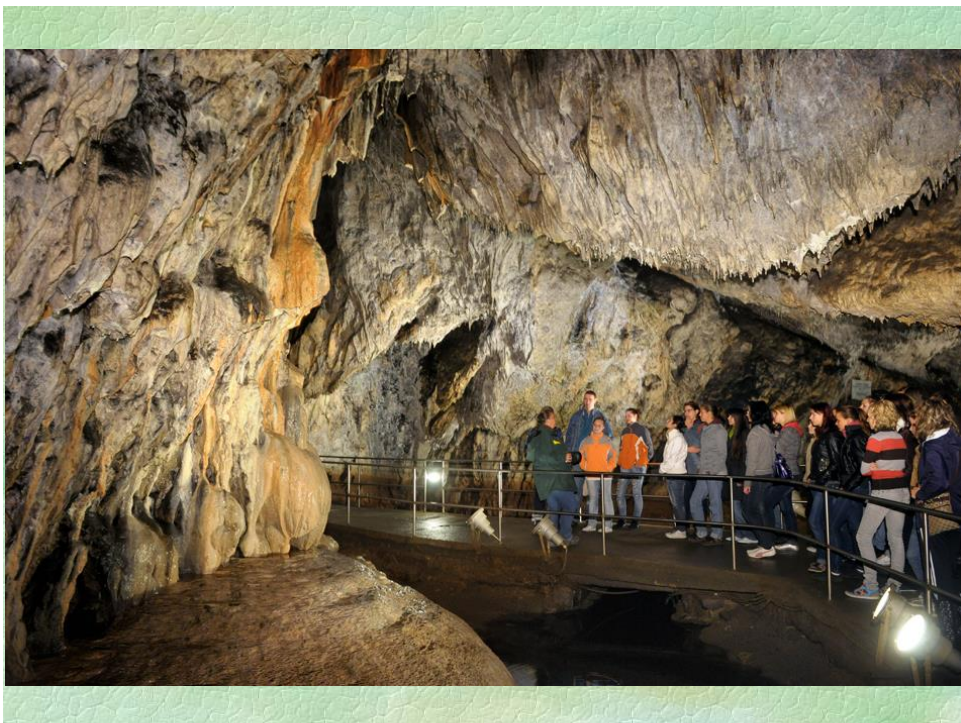
1. ***National Park Directorates***
2. ***State Forest Enterprises***
3. ***Municipalities (local/regional)***
4. ***Private companies***

State of the play – II.

National Park Directorates own 319 tourism infrastructure objects countrywide:

- ***18 visitor centres***
- ***169 nature trails***
- ***42 visitable caves***
- ***90 others (e.g. museums, info points)***
serving 1.4 million people each year.

Sounds fantastic, does it?





BUT...

- **EU financial resources available only for construction,**
- **no money for operational costs and maintainance**
- **who will empty the bins along the trail?**
- **developments have to be economically sustainable, or**
- **there should be a financially stable organization behind,**
- **most of them are not profitable, or if you try to make it so, the quality of services decreases,**

The bad and the good example







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