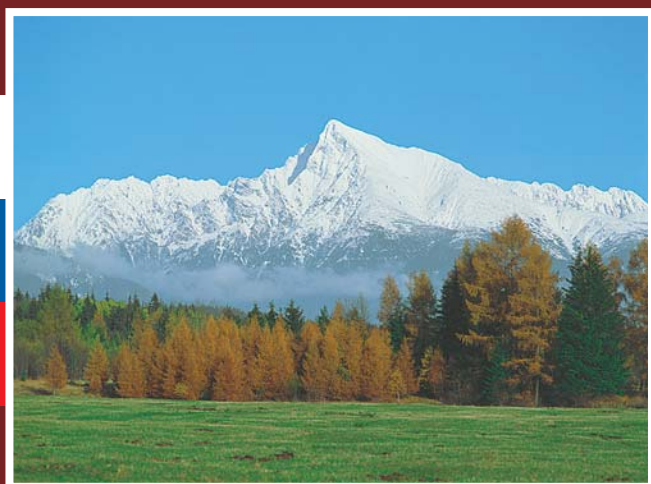


***Ministry of the Environment
of the Slovak Republic***

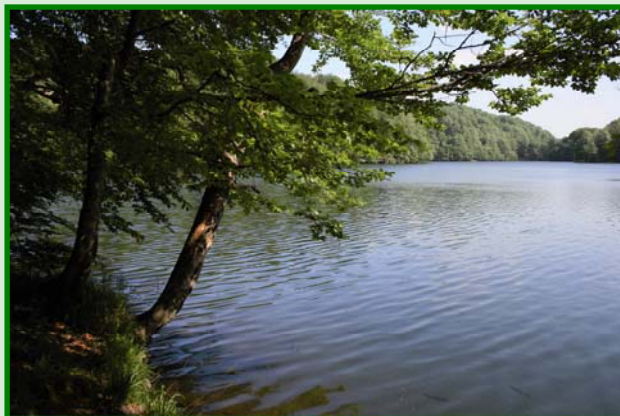


***STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
REPORT
SLOVAK REPUBLIC 2007***



***Slovak Environmental
Agency***





Nature and Landscape Protection is the limitation interferences, which can threaten, harm or destroy living conditions and forms, natural heritage, scene, lower its ecological stability, as well as consequences elimination of such interferences. Nature protection is also taking care of ecosystems.

§ 2 par. 1 of the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection

NATURE AND LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

• NATURAL HERITAGE AND ITS PROTECTION

Protected areas

◆ Protected areas network

Pursuant to the **Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection**, the system of complex nature and landscape protection is carried out under 5 protection levels and in the following protected areas (PA) categories:

1st level of protection - territory of the SR not included in any of the higher levels of protection

2nd level of protection - protected landscape area (PLA),

- protected landscape fragment (PLF),

- zone D of protected area,

- protective zone of the PA with 3rd level of protection.

3rd level of protection - national park (NP),

- protected site (PS),

- protected landscape fragment,

- zone C of the protected area,

- protective zone of the PA with 4th level of protection.

4th level of protection - protected site,

- nature reserve (NR), national nature reserve (NNR),

- nature monument (NM), national nature monument (NNM),

- protected landscape fragment,

- zone B of the protected area,

- protective zone of the PA with 5th level of protection.

5th level of protection - protected site,

- nature reserve, national nature reserve,

- nature monument, national nature monument,

- protected landscape fragment,

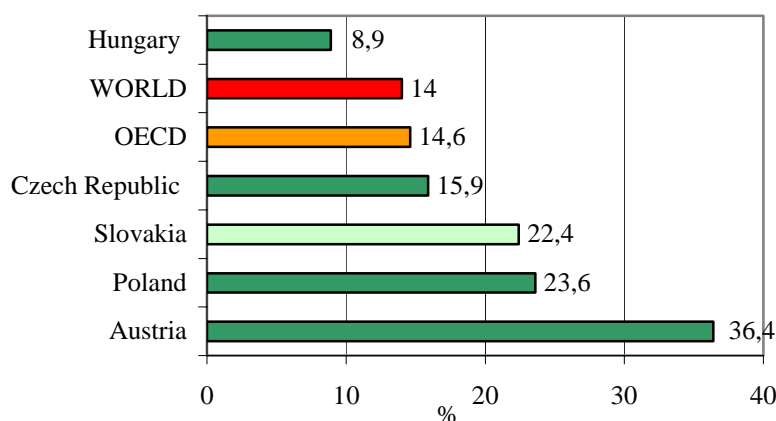
- zone A of the protected area,

- *cave and cave protective zone,*
- *natural waterfall and protective zone of the natural waterfall,*
- *special protection area (SPA)*

In 2007, 3 new protected areas were **declared** (1 PS, 1 PLF, and 1 NR – effective as from 2008), 2 new protected trees, and 2 protected cave protection zones (1 NM and 1 NNM), **updated** were 3 protected areas (2 NR and 1 NNR including 1 NR also with zoning), **cancelled** were 4 protected areas (3 PS and 1 NM) and 11 protected trees. In 2007, **protection degree** was decreased from 5 to 4 for 2 protected areas (2 NR) by regional environmental legislation.

Of the protected areas declared in 2006, 1 PS, 1 updated NNR, and 2 cancelled areas (1 NM and 1 PS) became effective in 2007. Also, resolutions from 2006 on declaring 3 and cancelling 2 protected trees came in effect. Also, resolution on tourist code for NP Slovenský kras became effective.

Proportion of PA on total size for selected countries (2004)



Source: OECD

Protected areas in the Slovak Republic (state to 31st December 2007)

Category	Number	Designated size of protected area (ha)	Designated size of protective zone (ha)	% of SR territory
Protected landscape areas	14	522 582	-	10.66
National parks	9	317 890	270 128	6.48+5.51
NP + PLA together	23	840 472	270 128	22.65
Protected sites	170	5 247	2 420	0.16
Nature reserves	384	12 855	244	0.27
Private nature reserves	1	3	-	0.00
National nature reserves	219	84 156	2 401	1.77
Nature monuments	230	1 606	259	0.04
National nature monuments	60	59	1 507	0.03
Total SSPA*	1 054	103 926	6 831	2.26
	110 757 ha			

* SSPA – small-size protected areas

Source: SNC SR

In total, **in the territory of PLA** there are **242 small-size** protected areas (SSPA) with total size (together with protective zones) of 12 106 ha (this represents **2.3 % of total PLA territory**), while **in the territory of NP and their protective zones (PZ)** there are **266 SSPA** with total size (including PZ) of 73 584 ha (**12.5 % of the NP area and their PZs**). **Outside PLA, NP, and NP PZ**, which means **the open**

landscape, there are **556** small-size protection areas with the size (together with PZ) of 25 070 ha (**22.6 %** of total SSPA and SSPA PZ) and 0.67 % of the open landscape area.

Further, there are **19** declared **special protection areas** with total size of **357 667 ha** (part of them overlaps with other protected areas) and **10 caves** (NNM or NM) with declared protection zone of total size of **1 534.4927 ha**.

◆ **Endangerment and degradation of the protected areas**

The **condition of protected areas** ranked into the 3th - 5th level of protection and protected trees is evaluated in 3 endangerment categories. Of the total number of 1 064 small-size protected areas in the 3th - 5th level of protection, there were **degraded** 34 territories of area of 325 ha (this area presents 0.3 % of total area of SSPA), 437 **endangered** (18.4 % of area) and in the **optimal condition** there were 593 territories (81.3 % of area).

Endangerment and degradation of SSPA

Category	Condition to 31 st December 2007		Optimal		Endangered		Degraded	
	number	area (ha)	number	area (ha)	number	area (ha)	number	area (ha)
PLF	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0
PS	170	7 668	50	3 824	103	3 786	17	58
NR	384	13 099	211	8 762	162	4 096	11	240
NNR	219	86 558	161	74 996	58	11 562	0	0
NM	230	1 866	119	908	105	931	6	26
NNM	60	1 566	51	1 530	9	36	0	0
Total	1 064	110 760	593	90 024	437	20 412	34	325

Note: In the area of SSPA there are included areas of SSPA protective zones

Source: SNC SR

◆ **Care of the protected areas**

Professional nature protection organisations carried out **regulatory intervention** in the field of practical care of the specially protected nature and landscape parts, with total cost of over 2.7 mil. SKK, with more impacts into this territory (mowing, tree cutting, elimination of younglings, protective treatment of rare tree types, liquidation of invasive plant species and other).

During the year 2007 State Nature Conservancy of the SR (SNC SR) elaborated 7 818 **nature and landscape impact proposals**. The biggest rate was created by the building and regional planning activities (26.3 %), department of tree species protection (19.5 %) and species protection of the plants and animals (11.9 %). Viewpoints relating to forestry created 9.9 %, inorganic nature 4.8 %, territorial protection 4.5 %, agriculture 4.4 %, water management 3.1 % and EIA 2.9 % of all viewpoints.

In 2007 there were **75 education paths (EP)** and **43 education localities (EL)** put in operation. Within the organisation units of State Nature Conservancy of the SR, in 2007 maintenance of 45 EP were realized, including the reconstruction of 13 EP and 8 new were opened. **11 information centres of nature protection** and the **Nature Protection School** in Varín were administered.

Review of Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar-wetlands in selected countries

		Slovakia	Czech Rep.	Poland	Hungary	Austria
Biosphere Reserves (BR)	Number	4	6	9	5	6
	area (km ²)	404	547	1 258	2 064	1 223

Source: SNC SR, UNESCO-MaB, www.ramsar.org, 2007

CR) BR: one common with Poland.

Slovakia) BR: one common with Poland and one with Ukraine.

Poland) BR: one common with Czech Republic and with Slovakia and one with Slovakia and Ukraine.

◆ NATURA 2000 in Slovakia

- **Sites of Community Importance (SCI)** are proposed for **44 plant, 96 animal species** and **66 types of biotopes**.

Into the **proposed list** of the SCI there were listed **382 territories** with the area of **573 690 ha**. The territories cover **11.7 % of the SR area**, lapping with present network of protected areas is **86 %**. From the total area of the SCI, there is 86 % on forest land, 10 % is on agricultural land, 2 % is created by water areas and 2 % are other areas.

National list of SCI was published *on the basis of the MoE SR Edict* of July 14, 2004, which publishes the national list of the sites of Community importance. These territories are presently under the so-called preliminary protection, which means the proposed protection level.

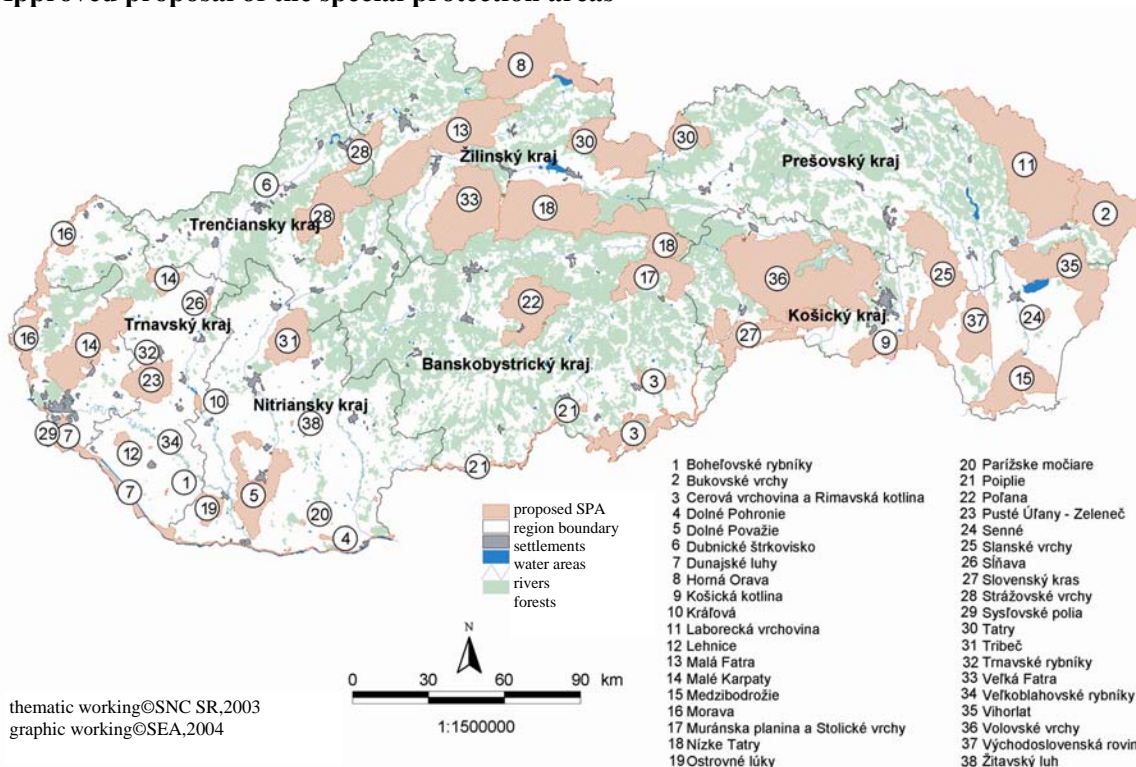
- in 2005, there were negotiations with the European Commission, subsequently Slovakia currently undergoes a revision of the national list of those biotopes and species that were considered insufficiently documented. On this basis the SNC SR drafted a proposal to amend the National SCI Register for missing or under-represented biotopes and species. To the 382 previously proposed Sites of Community Importance were to be added other 304 areas. There are 52 “supplements” (11 864 ha), the other 252 added SCIs only increased the original area by 51 142 ha,
- government proposal for SCI within the Panonian bio-geographical region was adopted by the European Commission in its Decision K(2007)5404 of November 13, 2007 and Decision K(2008)271 of January 25, 2008, adopting a list of Sites of Community Importance in the Alpine bio-geographical region,
- **in 2007** the EU member courtiers, following the Biotope Directive, developed a report on the state of biotopes and species of community importance in terms of their protection. Report on the state of **66 biotopes, 50 plants** and **150 animals** of community importance was prepared by SNC SR in cooperation with the scientific community. Slovak Republic officially sent the Report on 31.10.2007. Of the total number of biotopes and species of community importance, local regions show **19 % in good, 34 % in inadequate, 18 % in bad, and 29 % in unknown conditions**.

- **Special Protection Areas (SPA)** - national list of pSPA includes **38 SPA** with total area of **1 236 545 ha** and covers **25.2 % of the SR area** and lapping of pSPA with the existing network of protected areas in the SR presents 55.15 %.

The Slovak Government approved the SPA national list on July 9, 2003. In 2004 began the process of creating resolutions and care programmes for individual special protection areas. As of the end of 2006, there were declared **5 SPAs** by a single resolution: **Horná Orava, Malé Karpaty, Lehnice, Sysľovské polia and Dolné Považie**.

State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic made draft resolutions for the remaining SPAs and sent them to the SR Ministry of Environment. Over the course of the year 2007, these resolutions were discussed within internal comment proceedings and commented by different Ministries. Individual SPAs conducted an on-going monitoring of birds, focused on determining the occurrence and number of species in individual SPAs.

Approved proposal of the special protection areas



Agricultural and forestland in the NATURA 2000 territories

NATURA 2000	Number	Area (ha)	Agricultural land area (ha)	Share of agricultural land (%)	Forest land area (ha)	Share of forest land (%)
SPA	38	1 236 545	365 102	29.5	655 622	53.0
SCI	382	573 690	54 657	9.5	497 295	86.7

Source: SNC SR

Comparison of the pSCI and pSPA areas in Slovakia with selected countries of EU (2007)

Country	SPA			SCI		
	number	area (km ²)	% of country area	number	area (km ²)	% of country area
Austria	98	9 744	11.6	168	8 889	10.6
Czech rep.	38	6 936	8.8	858	7 251	9.2
Hungary	55	13 519	14.5	467	13 929	15.0
Poland	124	50 407	16.1	362	28 490	9.1
Slovakia	38	12 236	25.1	382	5 739	11.8
EU-25*	4 850	501 286	10.3	21 574	648 441	13.2

Source: SNC SR

* only terrestrial NATURA 2000 sites

Protected trees

The network of protected trees in 2007 was created by 470 protected trees and their groups including alleys (protected objects). Physically it is represented by 1 289 solitary trees of 67 taxons, including 32 domestic and 35 alien taxons.

There were 290 in the **optimal** state (62 %), 141 were **endangered** (30 %) and 39 **degraded** (8 %) of the protected trees and their groups.

Protected minerals and fossils

Protection of minerals and fossils is regulated by § 32 and § 38 of Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection and Decree of MoE SR No. 213/2000 Coll. on protected minerals and protected fossils and on their social evaluation, which stated the list of protected minerals and protected fossils and their social value.

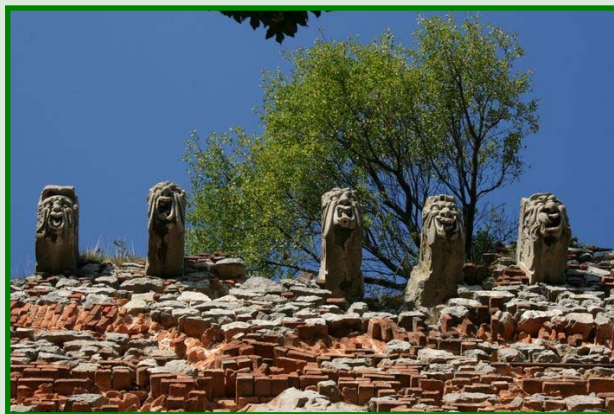
The list of **protected minerals** includes:

- 12 typological minerals, first time scientifically documented from the Slovak territory,
- 61 significant minerals or rare occurrence in Slovak sites, and having European significance, or minerals with specific morphological shape or trend,
- meteorites found in Slovakia's territory.

The list of **protected fossils** includes:

- 655 typological fossils that represent an irreplaceable, unique material of extinct plants and animals that served to describe the specific taxonomic group for the first time,
- selected groups of fossils with rare occurrence that thanks to their characteristics and degree of preservation are unique testimonies of the evolution of organisms in the Slovak geological past.

The samples of protected minerals and protected fossils are deposit especially in the collections of state nature scientific museums.



Protection of monuments and historic sites is the summary of activities and measures aimed at the identification, research, documentation, conservation, renovation, restoration, regeneration, use and presentation of cultural heritage monuments and historic sites.

§ 2 par. 7 of the Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites

• MONUMENT FUND AND ITS PROTECTION

Monuments and historic sites

Trend in the structure of immovable national cultural monuments (NCM) by types

Categorization of immovable NCM*	Number of cultural monuments							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Architectural monuments	7 515	7 549	7 612	7 650	7 709	7 738	7 799	7 802
Archaeological monuments	340	342	343	351	354	360	368	369
Historical monuments	1 397	1 398	1 410	1 373	1 405	1 386	1 382	1380
Historical gardens and parks	333	335	337	339	339	340	341	344
Folk architecture monuments	1 821	1 821	1 812	1 784	1 837	1 833	1 823	1 821
Technical monuments	451	458	462	451	449	454	484	496
Art work monuments	818	819	943	947	977	1 005	1 015	1 007
Total	12 675	12 722	12 919	12 895	13 070	13 116	13 212	13 228

* Presented is the number of monument buildings, which comprise the immovable NCM.

Source: MB SR

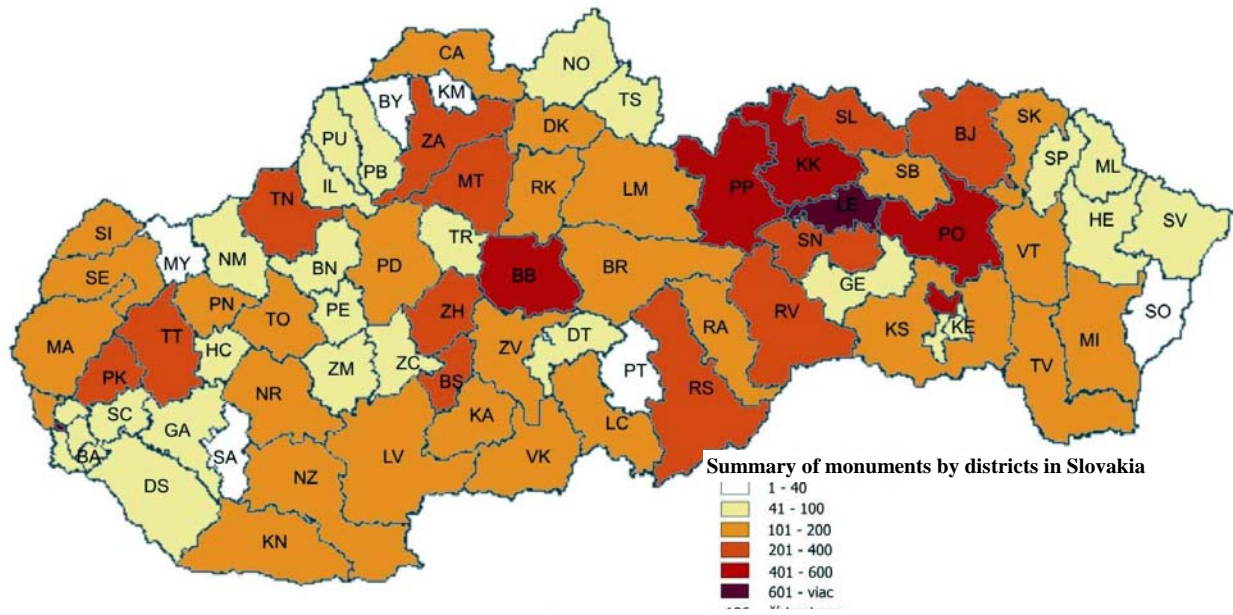
To 31st December 2007, there were 9 539 **immovable national cultural monuments** in Slovakia consisting of **13 228 monument buildings** and **14 459 movable national cultural monuments** (98 % of it has sacral character), which consist of **30 629** cultural articles.

Literary sources point to the past existence of 300 **castles** in Slovakia. Presently, the 9 539 immovable national culture monuments include 109 **castles** and 437 **mansions**.

Monument objects within the NCM in 2007 register:

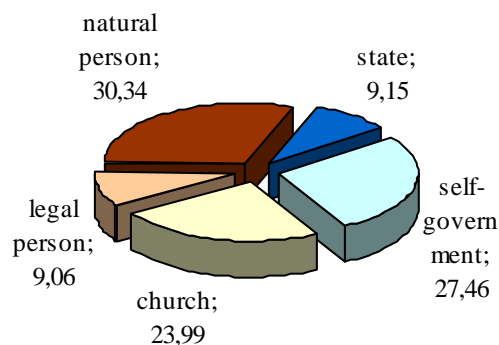
- 536 mansions and family households
- 109 castles
- 82 monasteries
- 1565 churches
- 1 290 people's government houses
- 2 432 manor houses
- 198 palaces and villas
- 616 road sculptures and crosses
- 553 commemorative wall tablets and commemorative sites

Summary of monuments by districts in Slovakia



As of 2007, there were 67 **unused** cultural monuments in Slovakia (according to the MB SR catalogue).

Ownership form of cultural monuments in 2007



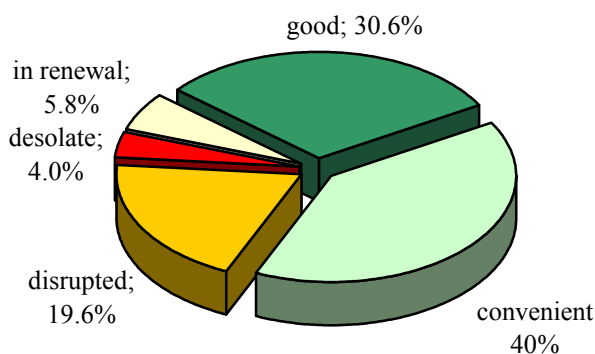
Source: MB SR

In terms of the **construction and technical state**, the year 2007 followed the trend in development since 1993. There is a gradual decrease in the percentage of the "good" state, from 34 % in 1993 went down to 30.6 % in 2007. On the other hand, the percentage of endangered monuments that are disrupted or desolate is also decreasing (from 27 % in 1993 to 23.6 % in 2007). This means that the **state of the majority of monuments moved under the category of convenient**, from 33 % to 40 %.



When added to the monuments in good state, it is 70.6 % of monument fund that is in satisfactory state.

Construction-technical state of immovable NCM in 2007



Source: MB SR



Preservation of monuments in SR is provided by Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the protection of monuments and historic sites.

Besides the preservation of the historical monuments – the objects as solitaires, the monument fund is also area preserved in the monument areas: monument reserves and monument zones.

Historical settlement structures in the Slovak republic (2007)

Historical settlement structures (HSS)	Total number of HSS
Town reserves	18
Folk architecture reserves	10
Historical preserved parks	340
Monument zones	85

Source: MB SR

Town reserves

Historical settlement structures		
Town reserves	Proclamation	Number of CM
1. Banská Bystrica	18.5.1955	200
2. Banská Štiavnica	11.6.1950	191
3. Bardejov	11.6.1950	131
4. Bratislava	5.10.1954	264
5. Kežmarok	11.6.1950	256
6. Košice	2.2.1983	500
7. Kremnica	11.6.1950	116
8. Levoča	11.6.1950	339
9. Nitra	21.1.1981	23
10. Podolíneč	11.6.1991	63
11. Prešov	11.6.1950	257
12. Spišská Kapitula	11.6.1950	24
13. Poprad - Sp. Sobota	11.6.1950	89
14. Svätý Jur	23.5.1990	26
15. Štiavnické Bane	15.8.1995	20
16. Trenčín	11.9.1987	112
17. Trnava	11.9.1987	139
18. Žilina	11.9.1987	58

Source: MB SR

Folk architecture reserves

Historical settlement structures		
Folk architecture reserves	Proclamation	Number of CM
1. Brhlovce	14. 9. 1983	25
2. Čičmany	26. 1. 1977	36
3. Osturňa	3. 10. 1981	135
4. Plavecký Peter	23. 5. 1990	28
5. Podbiel	14. 9. 1977	56
6. Sebechleby	21. 1. 1981	89
7. Špania Dolina	10. 1. 1979	83
8. Veľké Leváre	21. 1. 1981	25
9. Vlkolíneč	26. 1. 1977	73
10. Ždiar	14. 9. 1977	183

Source: MB SR

Restoration of cultural monuments

In 2007, there was 109 674 thous. SKK in contributions by the MoC SR to the restoration of national cultural monuments in the SR within **389 projects**. The funds came from the programme "**Let us renovate our house**". It is a complex development programme that supports renewal of national cultural monuments.

Contributions of MoC SR for the restoration of national cultural monuments from the programme "Let us renovate our house"

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of projects	160	920	323	513	389
Total funding (thousands SKK)	24 000	118 380	94 648	116 335 000	109 674 000

Source: MB SR





*The ministry on its own initiative, on initiative of the The Monuments board or on initiative of any individual or any corporation, can propose a cultural monument or monument areas for **inscription in the World Heritage List** on conditions specified in the international agreement (Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage)*

§ 21 par. 1 of the Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the Protection of Monuments and Historic Sites

• SLOVAK CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD HERITAGE

Sites enlisted under the World Heritage List

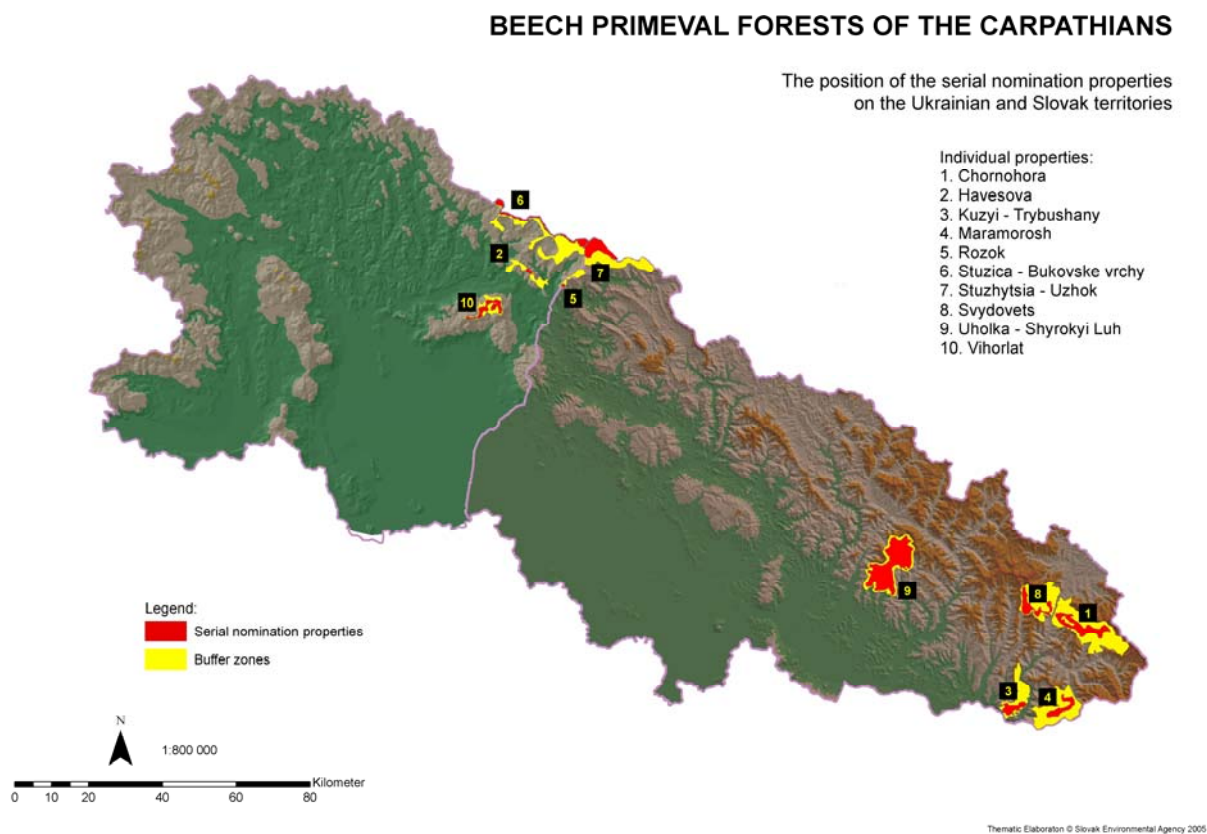
In 2007, the **World Heritage List** contained **878** sites (including 679 cultural, 174 natural, and 25 mixed) from **145** signatory countries to the *Convention concerning the protection of World culture and natural heritage*.

On June 28, 2007 the World heritage committee in Christchurch (New Zealand) put a new Slovak site on the World Heritage List – **Beech primeval forests of the Carpathians** (bilateral project together with Ukraine). In Slovakia, we register more than 70 primeval forest reservations, of which four (**Havešová, Rožok, Stučica, and Vihorlat**) were added into world nature heritage. The site comprises the **core zone** (29 278.9 ha including 5 766.4 ha in SR) and the **buffer zone** (48 692.7 ha / 13 818.4 ha in SR).

This is a globally significant nature gene pool of the beech tree that represents the most significant tree type of the northern mild European zone, as well as a unique nature laboratory of global significance. Beech primeval forests of the Carpathians as part of the World nature heritage will now begin to remind the whole humanity of the still existing possibility of returning to the equilibrium.



Location of sites of the trans-boundary series of Carpathian beech primeval forests



On July 7, 2008 in Quebec, another Slovak site was added on the World heritage list – „**Wooden churches in the Slovak part of the Carpathian arch**“. These represent a group of nine wooden objects – eight churches and one (detached) bell tower – of three confessions, dating back to the 16-18th centuries: *Roman-catholic churches in Hertvanovo and Tyrdošín, Lutheran articular churches in Kežmarok, Leštiny and Hronsek (church and bell tower), and churches of the eastern office in Bodružal, Ladamírová and Ruská Bystrá*. Original wood architecture in the Carpathian arch is considered by the World heritage committee an „important example of rich local tradition of religious culture, where the Latin (western) and the Byzantine (eastern) cultures meet. Meanwhile, it represents a symbiosis of folk and professional architecture and reflects the context of the time of its creation.

In Slovakia, seven sites were put on the World Heritage List as of 2007/2008.

Under cultural heritage:

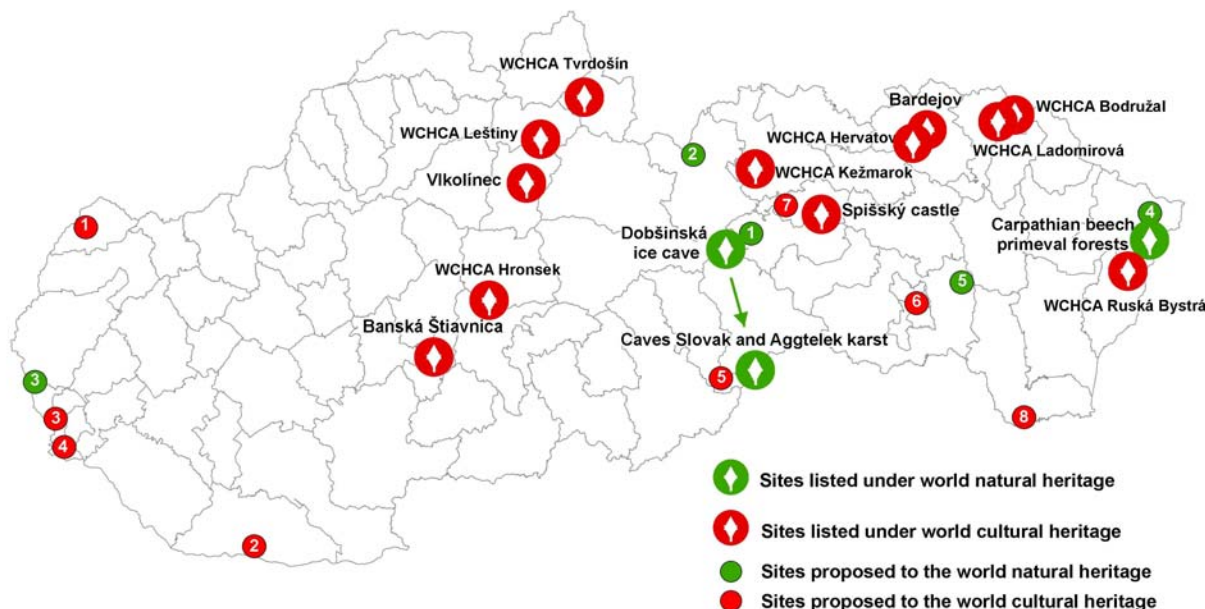
- **Vlkolínec** Folk Architecture Reserve, local district of Ružomberok (Cartagena, 1993),
- **Spišský castle** and cultural monuments in its surroundings in protective zone of NCM - Spišská Kapitula, Spišské Podhradie, Church of the Holy Ghost in Žehra (Cartagena, 1993),
- **Banská Štiavnica** with neighbouring technical monuments (Banská Štiavnica, Hodruša–Hámre, Štiavnické Mines, Banská Belá, Voznica, Vyhne, Banský Studenec, Počúvadlo, Kopanica, Kysihýbel, Antol, Ilija; especially 23 water dams - tajchas) (Cartagena, 1993),

- Historical Town Reserve of **Bardejov** also with the protective zone, including the Jewish suburb (Cairns, 2000),
- **Wooden churches** of the Slovak part of the Carpathian arch (wooden churches - Hervatov, Tvrdošín, Leštiny, Kežmarok, Hronsek, Bodružal, Ladomirová, Ruská Bystrá) (Quebec, 2008).

Under natural heritage:

- **Caves of the Slovak and Aggtelek karsts** (Berlín, 1995), to which was added **Dobšinská ice cave** in 2000, including Stratenská cave and Psie diery cave as a one cave system in Duča hill (Cairns, 2000),
- **Beech primeval forests of the Carpathians** (Christchurch, 2007) together with Ukraine.

World cultural and natural heritage in the SR



Source: SEA

Comparison of the number of World Heritage sites (WH) with the surrounding countries to 2007

Country	Number of WH sites (cultural/natural)
Slovakia	6 (4/2)
Czech Republic	12 (12/0)
Poland	13 (12/1)
Hungary	8 (7/1)
Austria	8 (8/0)

Source: UNESCO

Sites proposed to be placed on the World Heritage List

The proposed sites to be placed on the list for nomination to the world heritage to 2007 include:

Under cultural heritage

1. **Great Moravian settlements:** Slavic fortification complex in Mikulčice and the St. Margaret Church in Kopčany,
2. **Komárno – fortification against the Turks** (together with Hungary),
3. **Monument to Chatam Sófer** in Bratislava,
4. **Limes Romanus – Roman monuments on the middle Danube** (together with Austria, Hungary, in Slovakia only Iža and Rusovce),
5. **Gemer and Abov churches with medieval wall paintings** (planned project with Hungary),
6. **Historic Centre of Košice** (lens-shaped square),
7. **Monuments and landscape of Spiš** (the area around Spišský castle and the surrounding world heritage monuments – with added historical centre of Levoča and the work of the Master Paul),
8. **Tokay vineyard area** (Černov, Veľká Taña, Malá Taña, Slovenské Nové Mesto, Černochovej, Bara, Viničky; inclusion into the Tokay vineyard area in Hungary).

Under nature heritage

1. **Original meadow pastures** in Slovakia,
2. **Nature reserves of the Tatras** (together with Poland),
3. **Nature and cultural landscape in the sub-Danubian region** (anticipated common proposal with the Czech Republic),
4. **Mycoflora of the Bukovské hills**,
5. **Geysir in Herľany**.





Spatial planning systematically and comprehensively solves the spatial arrangement and functional use of the territory, sets its principles, proposes the material and time coordination of activities influencing the environment, ecological stability, cultural and historical values of the territory, regional development and landscape formation in line with the principles of sustainable development.

§ 1 of the Act No. 50/1976 Coll. on Spatial Planning and Building Order (Building Act) as subsequently amended

• SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND FUNCTIONAL USE OF TERRITORY

Settlement and demographic trend

Since 2003, there has been a rising trend in reproduction potential, birthrate is increasing, number of abortions have dropped, and the number of immigrants has also increased. **Total increment** compared to the previous year was 7 361 inhabitants, mainly due to immigration. As of December 31, 2007, population count in the Slovak Republic reached the number of **5 400 998**. There was **natural increment** in population count, which builds on the positive trend from 2004 that was preceded by a three-year reduction. (2001-2003).

Basic data about the migration of population in the SR (2007)

Territory	Live births	Dead	Natural increment (loss)	Migration increment (loss)	Total increment (loss)	Number of inhabitants (to 31 st December 2007)
Bratislavský region	6 325	5 771	554	3 543	4 097	606 753
Trnavský region	4 904	5 635	-731	2 807	2 076	555 075
Trenčiansky region	5 214	6 074	-860	844	-16	599 847
Nitriansky region	6 067	8 059	-1 992	1 445	-547	707 305
Žilinský region	7 021	6 666	355	17	372	695 326
Banskobystrický region	6 323	7 230	-907	-187	-1 094	655 762
Prešovský region	9 489	6 884	2 605	-1 149	1 456	800 483
Košický region	9 081	7 537	1 544	-527	1 017	773 086
Slovak Republic	54 424	53 856	568	6 793	7 361	5 400 998

Source: SO SR

Demographic trend of the 90-ties and the beginning of this century in Slovakia reflects changes that occur in the economic, social, and political transformation of the society.

Structure of the settlement in the SR (to 31st December 2007)

Territory	Area (km ²)	Number of inhabitants per km ²	Number of independent municipalities	Average number of inhabitants per municipalities	Urbanization level (%)	
					Urban area	Rural area
Bratislavský region	2 053.2	297.5	73	8 311.7	83.19	16.81
Trnavský region	4 146.7	134.4	251	2 211.5	48.98	51.02
Trenčiansky region	4 502.2	133.2	276	2 173.4	56.99	43.01
Nitriansky region	6 343.8	111.4	354	1 998.0	46.99	53.01
Žilinský region	6 808.7	102.2	315	2 207.4	50.50	49.50
Banskobystrický region	9 454.7	69.2	516	1 270.9	53.55	46.45
Prešovský region	8 973.7	89.4	666	1 201.9	49.49	50.51
Košický region	6 752.5	114.6	440	1 757.0	55.97	44.03
Slovak Republic	49 035.4	110.1	2 891	1 868.2	55.21	44.79

Source: SO SR

Index trend in the SR area structure

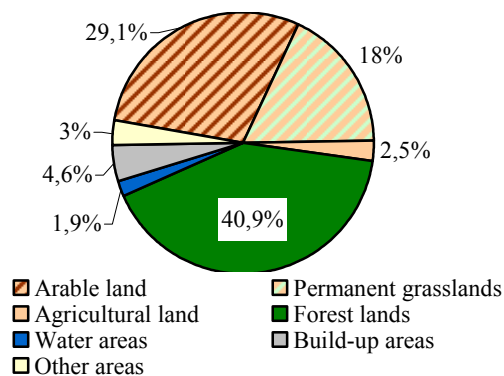
SR is the balanced mosaic composed from the urbanized settlements environment, agricultural and forest countryside, which plays also the production and restoration function for small and larger settlements in Slovakia. Within transformation of the national economy there continually comes to **natural shift of land** between agricultural and forest land and other land categories.

Overall land categories to 31st December 2007 (ha)

Region	Arable land	Hop-field	Vineyard	Gardens	Orchards	Permanent grasslands	Agricul. land	Forest lands	Water areas	Built-up areas	Other areas	Total area
BA	74 750	-	4 618	4 551	982	9 904	94 805	75 245	5 777	15 679	13 809	205 315
TT	263 002	129	4 293	8 210	2 461	14 712	292 808	65 266	14 713	27 517	14 365	414 669
TN	98 119	365	68	8 117	2 600	76 783	186 053	220 582	6 334	23 241	14 007	450 216
NR	407 196	36	12 133	14 201	5 054	30 479	469 098	96 229	15 704	37 777	15 577	634 384
ZA	62 896	-	-	6 123	404	176 315	245 738	379 932	12 799	25 094	17 308	680 872
BB	166 576	-	3 304	11 128	1 849	235 342	418 199	462 607	7 892	33 129	23 640	945 467
PR	149 217	-	23	10 829	2 116	111 268	384 453	440 624	14 138	31 365	26 820	897 401
KE	204 139	-	2 804	13 560	2 124	115 118	337 745	266 657	16 299	34 128	20 418	675 248
Total	1 425 896	530	27 243	76 720	17 590	880 920	2 428 899	2 007 142	93 656	227 931	145 945	4 903 573

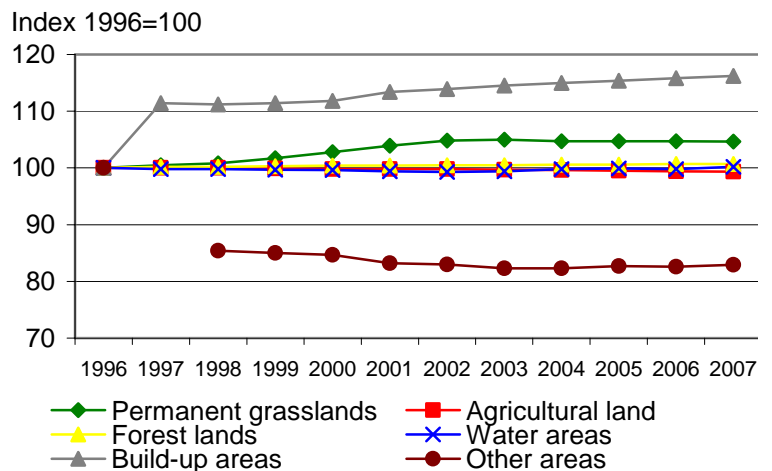
Source: IGCC SR

Areas structure in the SR (2007)



Source: IGCC SR

Index trend in areas structure of SR



Source: IGCC SR

Green in the residential areas

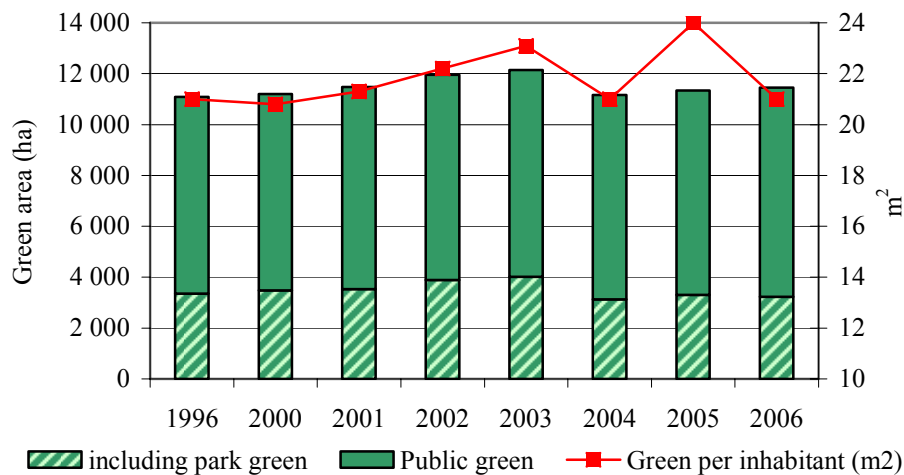
As of 2006, areas of municipal green in the SR reached **11 449 ha**, including 3 228 ha of park green areas. Its share per one inhabitant was **21 m²**.

Area of municipal green of the SR by regions (2006)

Region	Public green (ha)		including park green (ha)		Green per inhabitant (m ²)	
	towns and villages	including towns	towns and villages	including towns	towns and villages	including towns
BA	1 153	921	335	239	19	18
TT	1 329	702	389	137	24	26
TN	1 149	887	333	194	21	26
NR	1 952	967	606	190	28	29
ZA	1 199	743	242	114	17	21
BB	1 569	977	468	304	24	28
PR	1 350	861	376	202	17	22
KE	1 649	1 047	479	209	21	24
Total	11 449	7 105	3 228	1 589	21	24

Source: SO SR

Trend of public green in SR



Source: SO SR

Spatial planning

Main document of spatial planning in the Slovak Republic is the Strategy of Spatial Development of Slovakia, which looks over the horizon of 15 to 20 years. **The Conception of Spatial Development of Slovakia 2001 (KURS 2001)** was approved by the SR Government. Ministry of construction and regional development of the SR that elaborates the strategy is also responsible for its periodical revisions.

KURS 2001 is a physical planning documentation of the national



importance. Objectives of physical planning strategy mentioned in the documentation form the basic framework and give direction for the Slovak spatial development within international and national domains. In their recommendations, the strategy fully follows the outcomes of the European spatial concepts – building on their objectives and creatively applying them for the Slovak conditions.

In 2006, Slovak Ministry of Construction and Regional Development oversaw the revision of the directive part of the Conception of Spatial Development of Slovakia 2001.

Since 2002, self-governing regions elaborate territorial plans **on the regional level**. Municipalities are responsible for activities related to spatial planning at the **local level**. Pursuant to the Building Act, any municipality with more than 2 000 inhabitants must develop and approve the **municipal territorial plan**.

Subsidies from the Ministry budget to create physical-planning documentation of municipalities:

- year 2006 total 1 mil. SKK (7 municipalities)
- year 2007 total 1.9 mil. SKK (16 municipalities).

Summary of the number of physical-planning documentation (ÚPD) in Slovakia as of January 31, 2007

	Municipalities over 2001 inhabitants		Municipalities of 1001 to 2000 inhabitants		Municipalities of up to 1000 inhabitants	
Number of municipalities	14 %	412	19 %	562	67 %	1 948
Municipalities without ÚPD	4 %	18	33 %	188	71 %	1 381
Municipalities with ÚPD under preparation	28 %	114	-	-	-	-
Municipalities with approved ÚPD	68 %	280	67 %	374	29 %	567

Source: MoCRD SR

European Landscape Convention



European Landscape Convention (ELC) as the Council of Europe’s Convention **focuses on landscape protection, management, landscape planning, and organisation of European cooperation in this area.**

It became effective on March 1, 2004. On December 31, 2006, other 26 Council of Europe member countries acceded to it or

ratified it, and 8 other member countries signed the Convention.

The Convention was signed in Slovakia on May 30, 2005, its ratification took place on August 9, 2005. **The Convention became effective in Slovakia on December 1, 2005.**

As of December 31, 2007, there were 35 countries acceding to the Convention, 29 countries ratified it, and 28 Council of Europe countries put it in effect.

MoE SR is the competent authority for coordination and management of obligations and cooperation with the affected ministries within the ELC in Slovakia, including the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development SR, Ministry of Culture SR, and Ministry of Agriculture SR. **SEA** (Slovak Environmental Agency) is the executive authority for the MoE SR.

In 2007, Slovakia was meeting the Programme of implementation of the European Landscape Convention. Programme of implementation of the ELC In Slovakia is structured into **four main pillars**:

- **Institutional support** – goal is to secure implementation and to prepare of legislation related to nature protection,
- **Promotion** – goal is to campaign, work with the public, cooperate with the media, and educate professional public and municipalities,
- **Cooperation** – goal is to secure cooperation on the national and international levels,
- **Professional support** – goal is to identify types of landscape, typical landscape character, major landscape elements, goal landscape quality, etc.

Assessment of implementation of the European Landscape Convention in 2007:

In 2007, within the implementation of the European Convention and its promotion, an informative brochure on the "*European Landscape Convention in Slovakia*" was published in both Slovak and English, as well as promotional posters that presented the values of the Slovak landscape. International conference called „*Landscape--Man--Culture*“ was organized, focusing on its central topic of "Landscape protection is the thing of us all". The Conference is organized every year as part of the international environmental films festival – Envirofilm.



Village Renewal Program

Village Renewal Program (VRP), over ten years of its existence showed, that is one of the popular and successful instruments for rural development in developed European countries. Countries and regions that are part of the European working community for village renewal and rural development (with headquarters in Vienna) have been applying this instrument for more than 20 years. **Slovakia** has

been a member of this community through its Ministry of Environment since 1997, and has been implementing this Program since 1998.

Main objective of the VRP is to create organisational and economic conditions to foster activities and support urban and rural populations to improve their environment, preserve natural and cultural values of rural landscape, and to develop environment-friendly management of domestic resources. This is implemented by **SEA**, that receives applications from local governments and rural micro-regions to support their activities through its counselors and secretariat for VRP, organises a national contest called The Village of the Year, and officially represents the Resort before international organisations.

Beside the indirect support, the Program also provides for **financial form of government support** - this is a system of small subsidies, typically several tens of thousand SKK per municipality.

In 2007, the VRP support reached total volume of **29.37 mill. SKK**. Subsidy categories were adjusted to take into consideration the preferences of the Ministry of Environment.

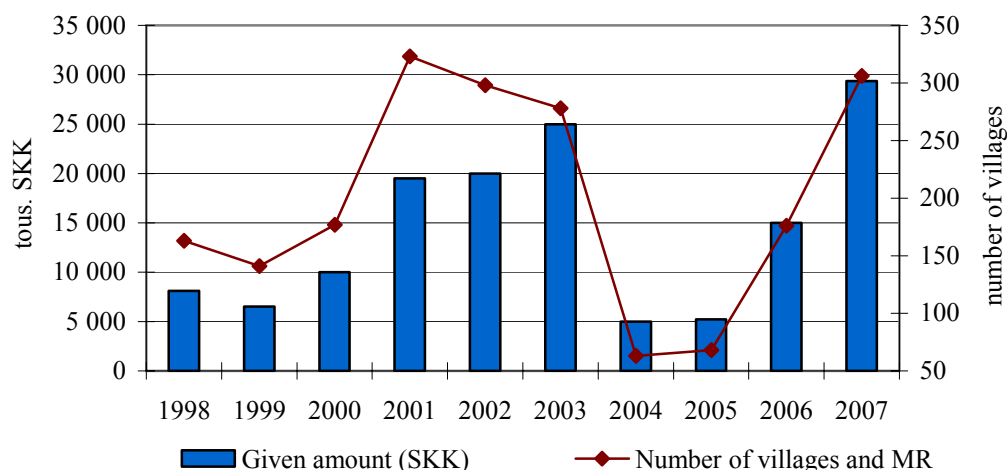
Total overview of allocating the subsidies to VRP in 2007 (SKK)

1/ studies, project documentations and SD programmes *		2A/ small realizations		2B/ edification and advertising		Total of 1 - 2	
Number of villages and MR**	Given amount	Number of villages and MR	Given amount	Number of villages and MR	Given amount	Number of villages and MR	Given amount
107	10 435 000	179	16 486 000	20	2 449 000	306	29 370 000

* SD – sustainable development ** MR – micro-regions

Source: SEA

Trend of allocating the subsidies to VRP



Source: SEA

Overview of allocating the subsidies to VRP

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	1998 - 2007
Total subsidies (thous. SKK)	8 100	6 500	10 000	19 500	20 000	25 000	4 996	5 230	14 990	29 370	114 316
Average allocation (SKK)	49 693	46 099	56 497	60 372	67 114	87 108	79 302	76 912	85 170	95 980	67 585

Number of applications	794	766	718	858	910	1 091	899	699	775	721	7 510
Number of allocations	163	141	177	319	298	278	63	68	176	306	1 683
% of satisfied application	20.5	18.4	24.7	37.2	32.7	25.5	7.0	9.7	22.7	42.4	22.4

Source: SEA

Every two years since 1990, *European Working Community for Rural Development and Village Renewal* (ARGE) organises a competition for the "**European Award for Village Renewal**". For the first time ever, in 2002, Slovakia sent its representative – winner of the national competition called „**Village of the Year**“. It was the Soblahov village from the district of Trenčín, while in 2004 it was the village of Hrušov from the district of Veľký Krtíš that had won the competition in 2003 and in 2006 it was the village of Vlachovo from the district of Rožňava that had won the competition in 2005.



There were 20 villages from the whole of Slovakia that registered for the competition **in 2007**. Thus, the villages took advantage of this great opportunity to present their achievements, beauties, and uniqueness of the Slovak village.

The village of **Liptovská Teplička** in the district of Poprad became the winner of the competition "**Village of the Year 2007**". In 2008, this village will represent Slovakia in the competition for the European Award for Village Renewal.