



MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



**STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT
SLOVAK REPUBLIC 2005**





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,

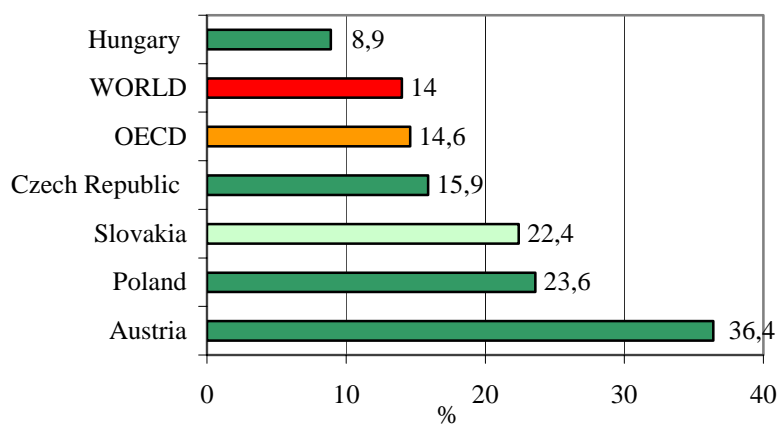
- cave and cave protective zone,
- natural waterfall and protective zone of the natural waterfall,
- special protection area (SPA)

In 2005, **1 Nature Reserve and 3 SPAs were declared**, while 2 NRs were revised and 4 NNMs were declared protective zones (for 3 of them effective from January 1, 2006) 1 NR, 2 PSs, and 2 NNMs were **cancelled** in 2005. **Tourist guidelines** were published for the Nízke Tatry National park, Veľká Fatra National Park, Malá Fatra National Park (effective from January 1, 2006), and NNM Krásnohorská cave. 6 protected areas projects were submitted in 2005.

In 2005, protection level was decreased for 18 small-size protected areas through regional generally binding resolutions. 5th level of protection was reduced to 4th protection level for 8 nature reserves and 4 nature monuments. For 6 protected sites, level 4 was reduced to protection level 3.

- **Total size** of protected nature elements under special protection in the 2nd to 5th level of protection in the SR represents **1 135 429.0958 ha**, which represents 23.16 % of the Slovak territory.
- Besides the mentioned elements there are **3 special protected areas** in Slovakia with total size of 111 718.45 hectares and **cave protective zones** with total size of 633 ha.

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



Source: OECD



Protected areas in the Slovak Republic (state to 31st December 2005)

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	11.99
NP + PLA together	23	840 471	270 128	22.65
Protected sites	179	5 201	2 419	0.16
Nature reserves	381	12 797	244	0.27
National nature reserves	2	52	0	0.00
Nature monuments	219	83 712	2 810	1.76
National nature monuments	228	1544	207	0.04
Total SSPA*	60	59	660	0.01

* SSPA – small-size protected areas

Source: SMNPaS

In total, there are **243** small-size protected areas (SSPA) with total size of 12 123.66 ha (together with protective zones this represents 2.32 % of total PLA territory), while in the territory of national parks and their protective zones (PZ) there are **264** SSPA with total size (including PZ) of 72 947.7740 ha (12.41 % of the NP area and their PZs). Outside PLA, NP, and NP PZ, which means the open landscape, there are **562** small-size protection areas with the size of 24 830.1161 ha (22.63 % of total SSPA and SSPA PZ territory in Slovakia, and 0.65 % of the Slovak territory outside PLA, NP, and NP PZ).

♦ Endangerment and degradation of the protected areas

The condition of protected areas ranked into the 4th and 5th level of protection and protected trees is evaluated in 3 endangerment categories. Of the total number of 1 069 small-size protected areas in the 3th - 5th level of protection, there were **degraded** 37 territories of area of 261 ha (this area presents 0.2 % of total area of SSPA), 458 **endangered** (25 % of area) and in the **optimal condition** there were 571 territories (74.8 % of area).

Endangerment and degradation of SSPA in the 3th - 5th level of protection

Category	Condition to 31 st December 2005		Optimal		Endangered		Degraded	
	number	area (ha)	number	area (ha)	number	area (ha)	number	area (ha)
PS	179	7 620	50	4 286	107	3 263	21	71
NR	381	13 041	207	8 929	165	3 957	8	155
Private PA	2	52	2	52	-	-	-	-
NNR	219	86 522	149	67 243	70	19 279	-	-
NM	228	1 751	113	892	106	824	8	35
NNM	60	719	50	648	10	71	-	-
Total	1 069	109 704	571	82 049	458	27 394	37	261

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 **81 inventory researches** in 2005, including 46 zoological, 31 botanical, and 4 other. The researches were implemented within SSPA, large-size protected areas, as well as in open landscape.

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 4.5 mil. SKK, with more impacts into the this territory (mowing, tree cutting, elimination of younglings, protective treatment of rare tree types, liquidation of invasive plant species).

During the year 2005 State nature conservancy of the SR (SNC SR) elaborated 8 875 **nature and landscape impact proposals**. The biggest rate was created by the building and regional planning activities (23.1 %), department of tree species protection (16.8 %) and department of species protection of the plants and animals (12.5 %). Viewpoints relating to forestry created 8.0 %, territorial protection 7.2 %, inorganic nature 5.5 %, agriculture 5.2 % and water management 4.1 % of all viewpoints.



Within the organisation units of State Nature Conservancy of the SR, in 2005 there were **53 educational paths (EP)** and **11 educational localities (EL)**. Besides them, there also exist EP and EL administered by other organisations. In 2005, the State Nature Conservancy of the SR administered **14 information centres of nature protection**, and the **Nature Protection School** in Varín.

Review of Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar-wetlands in selected countries

		Slovakia	Czech Rep.	Poland	Hungary	Austria
Biosphere Reserves (BR)	Number	4	6	9	5	5
	area (km ²)	389	419	905	1 541	1 180

Source: UNESCO-MaB, Ramsar Convention Bureau - in OECD Compendium 2002

CR) BR: one common with Poland.

SR) 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**

Basic part of the European strategy of biodiversity and ecosystems protection is a full implementation of the **NATURA 2000** system, which represents, or should create, a consistent European ecological network of protected areas under special attention of the EU community, and which will be created by member states, independent of their national PA network.

The system NATURA 2000 is formed by two types of territories:

- **sites of Community importance (SCI)** - sites proposed as protection areas on the basis of criteria set by the *Council Directive No. 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora* (Habitats Directive); national list of these territories is approved by the Slovak Government, which sends it, after agreement, to the EC for its approval.

SCI are proposed for **51 plant, 95 animal species** and **66 types of biotopes**.

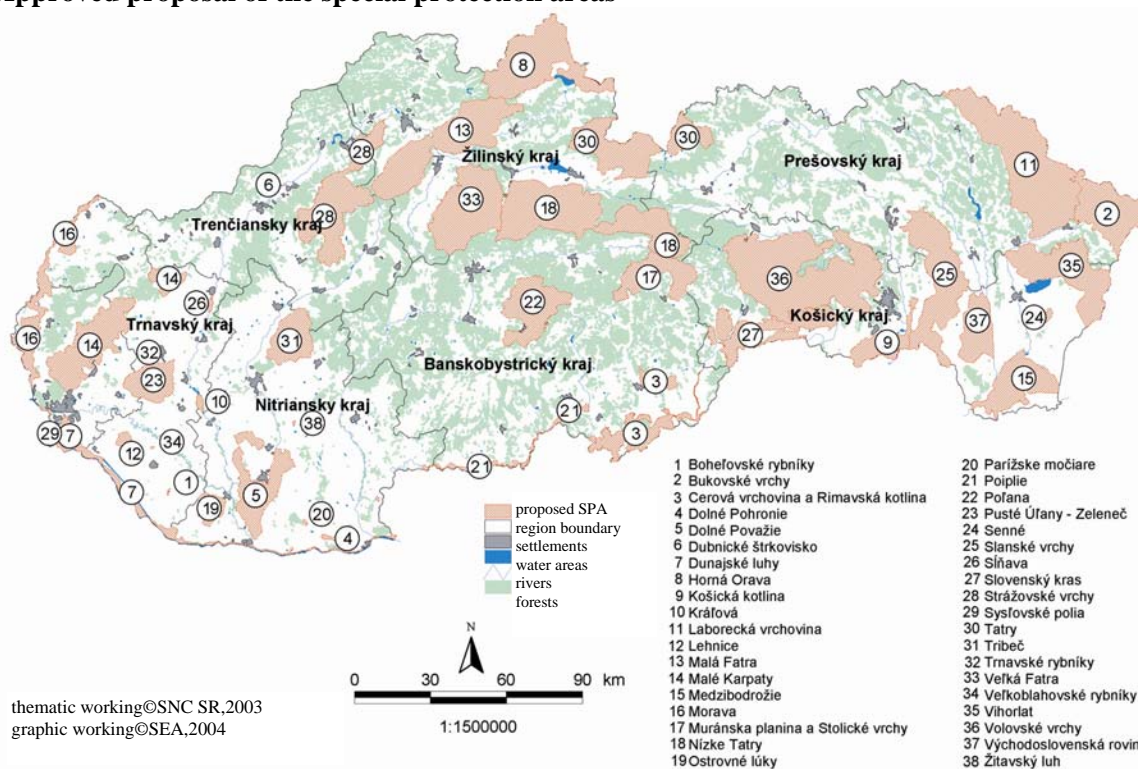
Into the proposed list of the sites of Community importance in the SR there were listed **382**

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, where the national list was assessed in terms of sufficient documentation of species and biotopes. Similarly to the other countries, Slovakia currently undergoes a revision of the national list of those biotopes and species that were considered insufficiently documented.

Approved proposal of the special protection areas



Source: SNC SR

- **special protection areas (SPA)** - sites proposed as protection areas on the basis of the criteria set by the *Council Directive No. 79/409/EEC of April 2, 1979, on the conservation of wild birds* (Birds Directive).

National list of pSPA was approved by Slovak Government on 9th July 2003. The proposal includes **38 SPA**. Their total area represents **1 236 545 ha** and covers **25.2 % of the SR area**. Average area of pSPA is 32 541 ha, lapping of pSPA with importance birds areas (IBAs) presents 61.8 % 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 2005, there were declared **3 SPAs** by a single resolution: **Horná Orava, Malé Karpaty** and **Lehnice**.

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 (2005)

Country	SPA			SCI		
	number	area (km ²)	% of country area	number	area (km ²)	% of country area
Austria	94	9 275.5	11.1	164	8 883.9	10.6
Czech rep.	38	6 936.2	8.8	864	7 244.1	9.2
Hungary	55	13 519.1	14.5	467	13 929.2	15.0
Poland	72	33 156.3	7.8	192	13 123.9	4.2
Slovakia	38	12 294.8	25.2	382	5 739.4	11.8
EU	4 317	412 564.3	8.9	20 582	552 193.3	12.1

Source: EC

Protected trees

The network of protected trees was created by 479 protected trees and their groups including alleys (protected objects). Physically it is represented by 1 321 solitary trees of 70 taxons, including 32 domestic and 38 alien taxons.

There were 313 in the **optimal** state (65 %), 132 were **endangered** (28 %) and 34 **degraded** (7 %) 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 deposited 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

Immovable cultural monuments form the basis of landscape **historic residential settlements**. In 2005, there was a slight increase in total number of immovable (also movable) cultural monuments, compared to 2004.

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

Categorization of immovable NCM*	Number of cultural monuments							
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Architectural monuments	7 366	7 426	7 515	7 549	7 612	7 650	7 709	7 738
Archaeological monuments	337	337	340	342	343	351	354	360
Historical monuments	1 414	1 402	1 397	1 398	1 410	1 373	1 405	1 386
Historical gardens and parks	333	332	333	335	337	339	339	340
Folk architecture monuments	1 779	1 775	1 821	1 821	1 812	1 784	1 837	1 833
Technical monuments	459	450	451	458	462	451	449	454
Art work monuments	767	782	818	819	943	947	977	1 005
Total	12 455	12 504	12 675	12 722	12 919	12 895	13 070	13 116

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

Source: MB SR

To 31st December 2005, there were 9 501 **immovable national cultural monuments** in Slovakia consisting of **13 122 monument buildings** and **14 392 movable national cultural monuments** (98 % of it has sacral character), which consist of **30 230** cultural articles.

According to literary sources there were in Slovakia about 300 **castles**, while in the presence there are 109 **castles and mansions** and 436 **manor houses**.

Within the **monument buildings** in the SR there are:

- 554 manor houses and curias
- 109 castles
- 80 monasteries
- 1 524 churches
- 1 310 rustic houses
- 2 454 burgher's houses
- 198 palaces and villas
- 609 wayside sculptures and crosses
- 539 memorial tablets and places

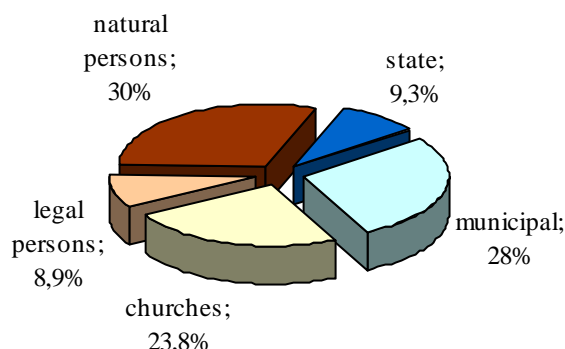
As of 2005, there were 86 **unused** cultural monuments in Slovakia (according to the MB SR catalogue).

Legal protection of monument fund in the SR The ownership form of immovable NCM (2005)

(number of monument buildings / articles)

NCM	2003	2004	2005
Proclaimed	86	93	100
Cancelled	111	30	48

Source: MB SR

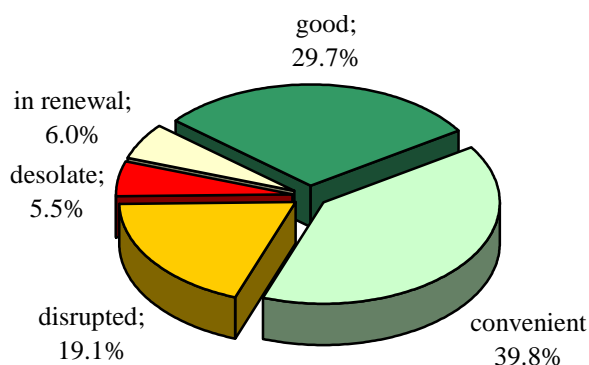


Source: MB SR

Trend in the **ownership form** of cultural monuments (CM) in 2005 was not typical. While since 1993, the share of monuments in the ownership of the state would gradually decrease by 1 % (from 23 % to 14.7 % in 2004), in 2005 it dropped sharply by 5 % - to 9.3 %. This was the result of the state property delimitation to municipalities and VÚC (upper-tier self-governing units).

In terms of the **construction-technical state**, there were damaged 2 503 monument buildings of immovable national cultural monuments, 720 were in desolate state, and 781 were under in renewal. There is a gradual decrease in the percentage of the "good" state, from 34 % in 1993 went down to 29.7 % in 2005. On the other hand, the percentage of endangered monuments that are disrupted or desolate is also decreasing (from 27 % in 1993 to 24.6 % in 2005). This means that the **state of the majority of monuments moved under the category of acceptable**, from 33 % to almost 40 %. When added to the monuments in good state, it is almost 70 % of monument fund that is in satisfactory state.

Construction-technical state of immovable NCM in 2005



Source: MB SR



Preservation of monuments in SR is provided by **Act No. 49/2002 Coll. on the protection of monuments and historic sites**. The aim of the Act is also to create general conditions for financing of the preservation and renewal of the historical monuments from more sources including the forms of non-state aid.

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

Historical settlement structures in the Slovak republic (2005)

Historical settlement structures (HSS)	Total number of HSS
Town reserves	18
Folk architecture reserves	10
Historical preserved parks	339
Monument zones	85

Source: MB SR

Restoration of cultural monuments

In 2005, there was 94 648 thous. SKK in contributions by the MoC SR to the restoration of national cultural monuments in the SR within **323 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
Number of projects	160	920	323
Total funding (thousands SKK)	24 000	118 380	94 648

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 2005, the **World Heritage List** contained **811** sites (including 630 cultural, 159 natural, and 23 mixed) from **137** signatory countries to the *Convention concerning the protection of World culture and natural heritage*, **five** of them from the Slovak territory. These are:

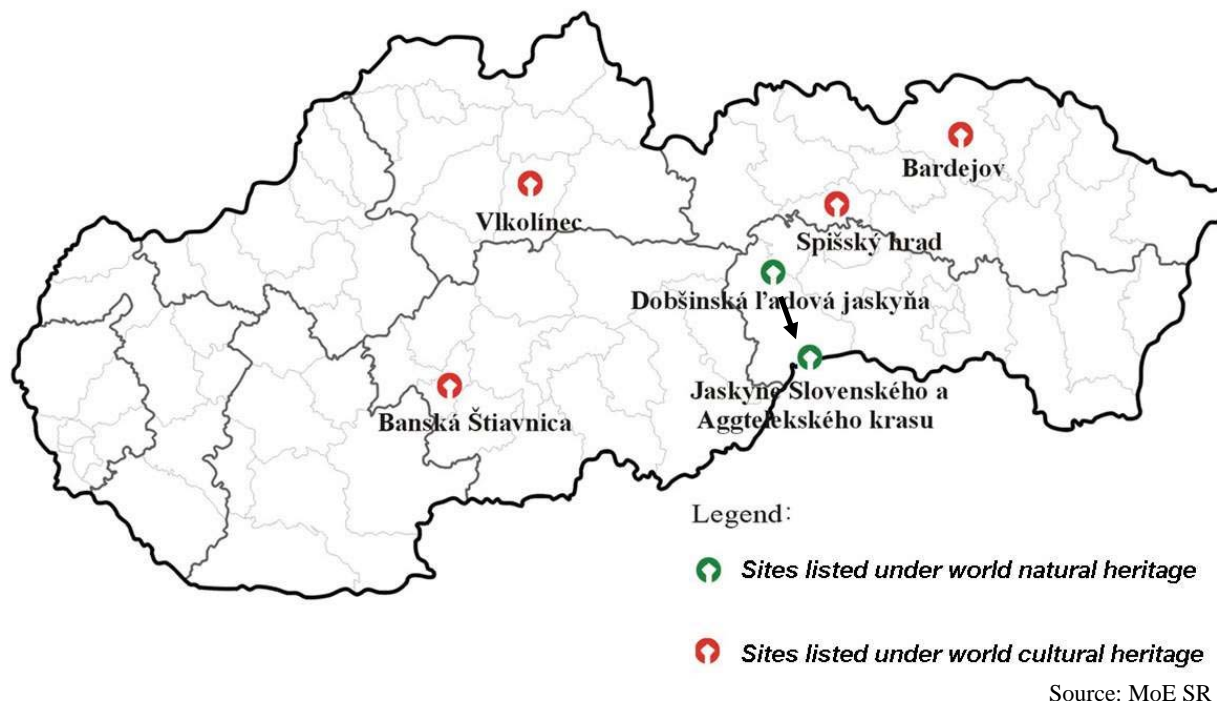
Under cultural heritage:

- **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).

Under natural heritage:

- **Caves of the Slovak and Aggtelek karts** (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),

World cultural and natural heritage in the SR



Comparison of the number of World Heritage sites (WH) with the surrounding countries to 2005

Country	Number of WH sites
Slovakia	5
Czech republic	12
Poland	12
Hungary	8
Austria	8

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 include:

Under cultural heritage

1. **Tokay vineyard area** (Černov, Veľká Tàňa, Malá Tàňa, Slovenské Nové Mesto, Černocho, Bara, Viničky; inclusion into the Tokay vineyard area in Hungary),
2. **Wooden sacral architecture in the Carpathians** (planned common proposal with Poland, Hungary, and Ukraine),
3. **Monument to Chatam Sófer** in Bratislava,
4. **Gemer and abovské churches with medieval wall paintings** (planned project with Hungary),
5. **Limes Romanus – Roman monuments on the middle Danube** (together with Austria, Hungary, in Slovakia only Iža and Rusovce),

6. **Komárno – fortification against the Turks** (together with Hungary),
7. **Historic Centre of Košice** (lens-shaped square),
8. **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).

Under nature heritage

1. **Carpathian primeval forests**,
2. **Nature reserves of the Tatras** (together with Poland),
3. **Karst valleys of Slovakia** (addition to proposal on the Gorge of Slovak Paradise),
4. **Danubian nature and cultural landscape** (planned common proposal with the Czech Republic, Austria, and Hungary),
5. **Nature reserves of the Považie region**,
6. **Mycoflora of the Bukovské hills**,
7. **Geyser 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 4 358 inhabitants, mainly due to immigration. As of December 31, 2005, population count in the Slovak Republic reached the number of **5 389 180**. 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) Of all the regions, most inhabitants live in the Prešov region, least in the Trnava region.

Basic data about the migration of population in the SR (2005)

Territory	Live births	Dead	Natural increment (loss)	Migration increment (loss)	Total increment (loss)	Number of inhabitants (to 31 st December 2005)
Bratislavský region	5 872	5 920	-48	2 615	2 567	603 699
Trnavský region	4 954	5 460	-506	1 480	974	554 172
Trenčiansky region	5 093	6 044	-951	-55	-1 006	600 386
Nitriansky region	6 110	7 941	-1 831	979	-852	708 498
Žilinský region	7 118	6 628	490	144	634	694 763
Banskobystrický region	6 418	7 300	-882	-367	-1 249	657 119
Prešovský region	9 770	6 795	2 975	-1 124	1 851	798 596
Košický region	9 095	7 387	1 708	-269	1 439	771 947
Slovak Republic	54 430	53 475	955	3 403	4 358	5 389 180

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 2005)

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	294	73	8 270	83.15	16.85
Trnavský region	4 147	134	251	2 208	49.35	50.65
Trenčiansky region	4 502	133	276	2 175	57.26	42.74
Nitriansky region	6 343	112	354	2 001	47.34	52.66
Žilinský region	6 808	102	315	2 206	50.72	49.28
Banskobystrický region	9 455	69	516	1 273	53.84	46.16
Prešovský region	8 974	89	666	1 199	49.13	50.87
Košický region	6 752	114	440	1 754	56.17	43.83
Slovak Republic	49 034	110	2 891	1 864	55.42	44.58

Source: SO SR

Index trend in the SR area structure

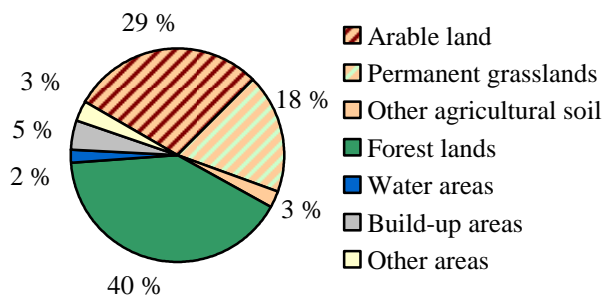
SR is the balanced mosaic composed from the urbanized settlements environment, agricultural and forest countryside, which plays also the production and restoration function for small and larger settlements in Slovakia. Within transformation of the national economy there continually comes to **natural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

Overall land categories to 31st December 2005 (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	75 183	0	4 655	4 514	1 101	9 869	95 322	75 244	5 560	15 257	13 879	205 262
TT	263 727	130	4 308	8 163	2 478	14 801	293 607	65 253	14 691	27 215	13 952	414 718
TN	98 724	372	68	8 149	2 607	76547	186 467	220 531	6 305	23 019	13 867	450 190
NR	406 904	36	12 164	14 240	5 057	31 085	469 485	96 118	15 675	37 458	15 605	634 341
ZA	63 274	0	0	6 142	403	176 450	246 268	378 482	12 795	24 999	18 295	680 839
BB	166 635	0	3 304	11 182	1 959	235 628	418 708	462 547	7 901	32 952	23 369	945 477
PR	150 243	0	23	10 927	2 198	221 767	385 160	440 455	14 112	31 210	26 511	897 448
KE	204 349	0	2 785	13 549	2 143	115 136	337 963	266 604	16 341	34 147	20 137	675 192
Total	1 429 040	538	27 307	76 865	17 947	881 283	2 432 979	2 005 234	93 381	226 257	145 616	4 903 467

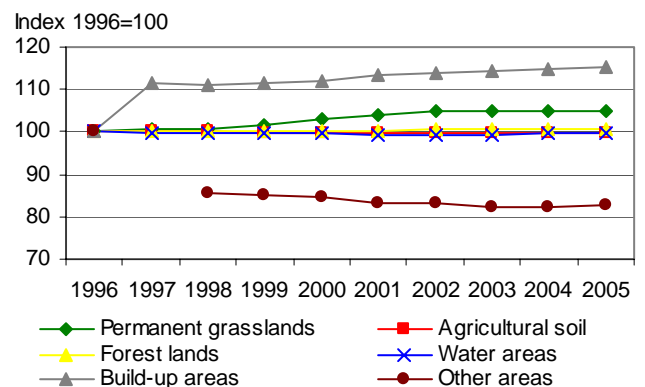
Source: IGCC SR

Areas structure in the SR (2005)



Source: IGCC SR

Index trend in areas structure of SR



Source: SO SR

Green in the residential areas

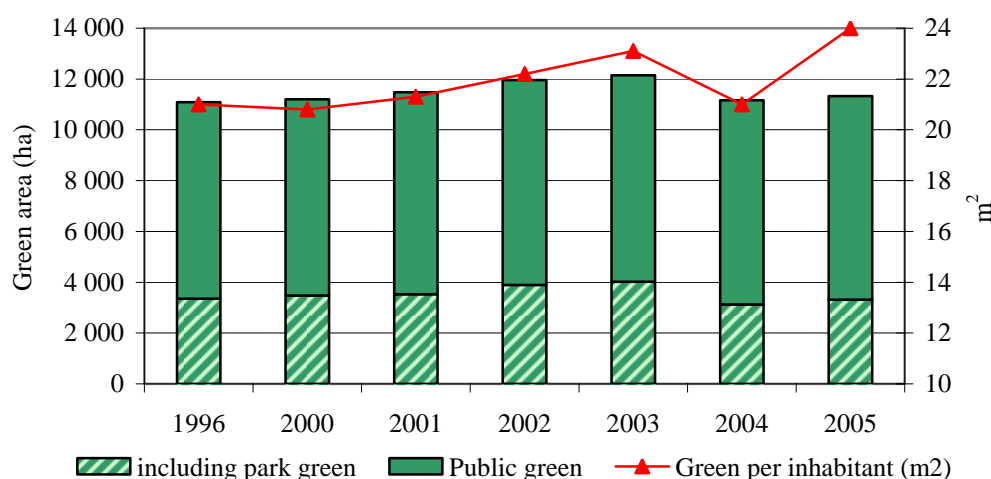
Green belongs to the most effective spatial, protective, healing and even decorative element.

Area of municipal green of the SR by regions (2005)

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	1 237	1 018	333	237	20	20
TT	1 328	715	430	178	26	24
TN	1 183	827	341	205	24	20
NR	1 913	937	599	186	28	27
ZA	1 167	713	260	133	20	17
BB	1 512	951	468	303	27	23
PR	1 330	837	388	207	21	17
KE	1 664	1 060	489	217	24	22
Total	11 334	7 057	3 308	1 666	24	21

Source: SO SR

Trend of public green in SR



Source: SO SR

Trend in the public greenery size over the last years was positive, notwithstanding its decrease in 2004. The highest size numbers come from the Nitra region; however, most urban greenery (without rural) is in the Košice region.

Spatial planning

Act No. 50/1976 Coll. on spatial planning and building code as amended is the main legal instrument for spatial planning and building code. Currently, there is being prepared a new legislation on spatial planning and building code.

Public administration authorities are required to respect the approved spatial distribution and functional use of territory in all their activities. Further, they must ensure that the territory is

developed proportionally in order to maintain its sustainable development; they have to exploit natural sources with caution, and protect natural and cultural heritage.

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.

Conception of Spatial Development of Slovakia 2001:

- **addresses** spatial distribution and functional use of the SR territory, not only in relation to international aspects, but also in terms of Slovak national interests with controlling the development of individual Slovak regions. Concept of links to the European residential network not only builds on the acceptance and acknowledgement of current European strategies of residential network development or strategies of the neighbouring countries, but also on its own visions of linking and utilisation of the Slovak residential structure within the Central European spatial framework,
- **sets** the hierarchy and spatial distribution of the residential structure - development of the main urbanisation axes, centres and settlement centres,
- **determines** principles of directing the spatial development with the goal to create equal living conditions throughout the whole Slovak territory, create territorial conditions for economic and social development of territory, improve the environment, and protect nature and her resources.

KURS 2001 principles of spatial planning are binding for the whole planning system of Slovakia and must be reflected also into the sets of measures of systematic and substantive character, such as legal regulations, proposals for various activities, development programmes and proposals for public investments as viewed by the central government authorities.

Since 2002, self-governing regions elaborate territorial plans **on the regional level. Territorial plans of large territorial units** for individual Slovak regions were approved by the SR government resolutions in 1998.

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**. In 2005, activities related to physical planning became more intense as municipalities needed to create territorial conditions for their development. The obligatory part of the municipal territorial plan must be in accordance with the binding section of the regional territorial plan.

European Landscape Convention

European Landscape Convention represents a European Board's Convention **focuses on landscape protection, management, and planning**. It became effective after its ratification by ten countries on March 1, 2004. Through this Convention, the Member states created an instrument directed on the quality and diversity of the European landscape, in order to secure its protection, management, and planning. By attaching their signatures to the Convention, they declare to consider landscape as part of

the European natural and cultural heritage that contributes to the strengthening of the European identity, and contributes to the creation of local cultures.

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.**

Objective of the European Convention on Landscape is to support landscape protection, management, and planning (for all types of countries in Europe) and organise European cooperation in this area. The signatory binds itself to:

- legally acknowledge landscape as the basic component of population environment, as an expression of diversity of social, cultural, and natural heritage and the basis of its identity;
- introduce and implement landscape strategies to protect, manage, and plan landscape through adopting specific measures directed to increase awareness on landscape value, its role and changes, and to educate specialists to assess the landscape and activities therein, multi-subject education, as well as educational programmes of schools and universities in the area of landscape strategies, protection, management, and planning.
- identify and assess landscapes, define landscape types on the whole of its territory, set the target quality level for individual identified and evaluated landscape types, implement landscape strategies by introducing measures for landscape protection, management, and planning.

Implementation programme of the European Landscape Convention in the Slovak Republic focuses on four main points:

Point 1: Institutional support - preparation of the needed legislation on landscape planning

Point 2: Campaigns - ensure information campaigns, public involvement, cooperation with the media, and training of specialists.

Point 3: Exchange of information - ensure cooperation on national and international level. Preparation of the list of contacts, creation of the network of experts and institutions, and closer cooperation among the V4 countries.

Point 4: Professional assistance - identification of landscape types, typical landscape features, major landscape components, target landscape quality, etc.

MoE SR is the competent authority for coordination and management of obligations and cooperation with the affected resorts within the European landscape convention. SEA (Slovak Environment Agency) is the executive authority for the MoE SR.

Village Renewal Program

Village Renewal Program (VRP) 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 municipalities and rural micro-regions to support their activities, 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.

The Program created a space for local development within the EU conditions – implements and develops the principles of regional and structural strategy, Local Agenda 21, and actively contributes to rural development. Also, the Program introduces a higher-quality environment – mainly public places and objects, which creates conditions for further development of rural tourism, and raises public environmental awareness.

In 2005, the VRP support was the lowest, reaching the value of 5.23 mil. SKK.

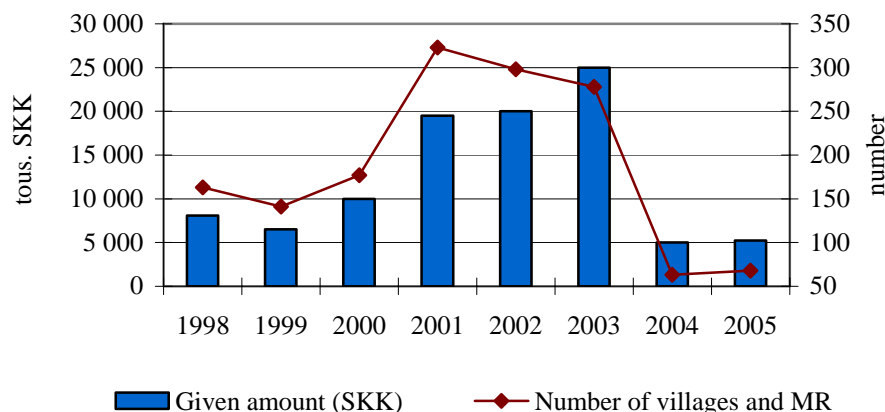
Overview of allocating the subsidies to VRP in 2005 (SKK)

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	Given amount	Number of villages	Given amount	Number of villages	Given amount
16	1 302 000	47	3 388 000	5	540 000	68	5 230 000

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

Source: SEA

Trend in given amount for VRP



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.

Character of criteria and evaluation in the national competition Village of the Year is always organised within the European context. The main evaluation criteria include uniqueness and originality of approaches and thinking patterns of inhabitants and users in the village as they carry out sustainable development activities. Meanwhile, they try to preserve typical features and their unique personality.

There were 13 villages from the whole of Slovakia that registered for the competition **in 2005**. Thus, the villages took advantage of this great opportunity to present their achievements, beauties, and uniqueness of the Slovak village. The village of **Vlachovo** in the district of Rožňava became the **winner** of the competition "**Village of the Year 2005**". In 2006, this village will represent Slovakia in the European Village Renewal Award competition.