



MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



**STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT
SLOVAK REPUBLIC 2006**





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,

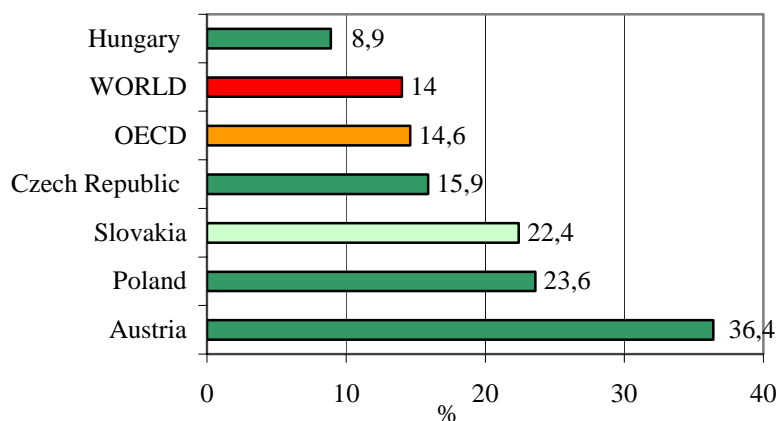
- cave and cave protective zone,
- natural waterfall and protective zone of the natural waterfall,
- special protection area (SPA)

In 2006, 4 new protected areas **were declared** (1 PS, 1 NR and 2 SPA) and 2 cave protective zones. **Updated** were 2 National Nature Reserves – including one also with zonation and 1 Nature Reserve – also with zonation. 12 protected areas were **cancelled** (including 10 PS and 2 NM).

Tourist guidelines were published for 5 national parks - Slovenský raj, Poloniny, Muránska planina, Pieniny and Slovenský kras; besides, a policy on regulation of visitors for Malá Fatra published back in 2005 came into force.

In 2006, protection level from 5th level to 4th level was decreased for 4 protected areas (2 NR and 2 NM) through regional generally binding resolutions.

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



Source: OECD

Protected areas in the Slovak Republic (state to 31st December 2006)

Category	Number	Designated size of protected area (ha)	Designated size of protective zone (ha)	% of SR territory
Protected landscape areas	14	522 579	-	10.66
National parks	9	317 890	270 128	6.48 + 5.51
NP + PLA together	23	840 469	270 128	22.65
Protected sites	170	5 444	2 146	0.15
Nature reserves	384	12 869	254	0.27
Private nature reserves	2	52	0	0
National nature reserves	219	83 739	2 663	1.76

Nature monuments	228	1 539	237	0.04
National nature monuments	60	59	1 311	0.03
Total SSPA*	1 061 110 263 ha	103 651	6 612	2.25

* SSPA – small-size protected areas

Source: SNC SR

In total, **in the territory of PLA** there are **243 small-size** protected areas (SSPA) with total size (together with protective zones) of 12 502.9943 ha (this represents 2.4 % **of total PLA territory**), while **in the territory of NP and their protective zones (PZ)** there are **265 SSPA** with total size (including PZ) of 73 065.3484 ha (**12.43 %** of the NP area and their PZs). **Outside PLA, NP, and NP PZ**, which means **the open landscape**, there are **553** small-size protection areas with the size (together with PZ) of 24 695.4154 ha (**22.4 %** of total SSPA and SSPA PZ) and 0.65 % of the open landscape area.

Further, there are **5** declared **special protection areas** with total size of 144 686.89 ha (part of them overlaps with other protected areas).

◆ **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 1 061 small-size protected areas in the 3th - 5th level of protection, there were **degraded** 33 territories of area of 246 ha (this area presents 0.2 % of total area of SSPA), **454 endangered** (21 % of area) and in the **optimal condition** there were 574 territories (78.8 % of area).

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

Category	Condition to 31 st December 2006		Optimal		Endangered		Degraded	
	number	area (ha)	number	area (ha)	number	area (ha)	number	area (ha)
PS	170	7 590	51	4 300	102	3 236	17	55
NR	384	13 123	214	8 900	162	4 068	8	155
NNR	219	86 403	149	71 566	70	14 837	-	-
NM	228	1 777	110	848	110	893	8	36
NNM	60	1 370	50	1 300	10	70	-	-
Total	1 061	110 263	574	86 914	454	23 104	33	246

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 **70 inventory researches** in 2006, including 32 zoological, 37 botanical, and 1 hydrogeological.

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 6 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 and other).

During the year 2006 State nature conservancy of the SR (SNC SR) elaborated 8 291 **nature and**

landscape impact proposals. The biggest rate was created by the building and regional planning activities (25.41 %), department of tree species protection (20.6 %) and forestry (11.9 %). Viewpoints relating to species protection of the plants and animals created 9.8 %, territorial protection 5.7 %, inorganic nature 4.8 %, agriculture 4.0 % and water management 3.1 % of all viewpoints.

Within the organisation units of State Nature Conservancy of the SR, in 2006 maintenance of **33 educational paths (EP)** and **16 educational localities (EL)** were realized, including the reconstruction of 4 EP and 9 new EL were opened. **12 information centres of nature protection** (other 2 in reconstruction) 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	5
Ramsar-wetlands	Number	13	10	8	21	16
	area (km ²)	382	419	905	1 541	1 373

Source: UNESCO-MaB, Ramsar Convention Bureau - in OECD Compendium 2004

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

- **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.

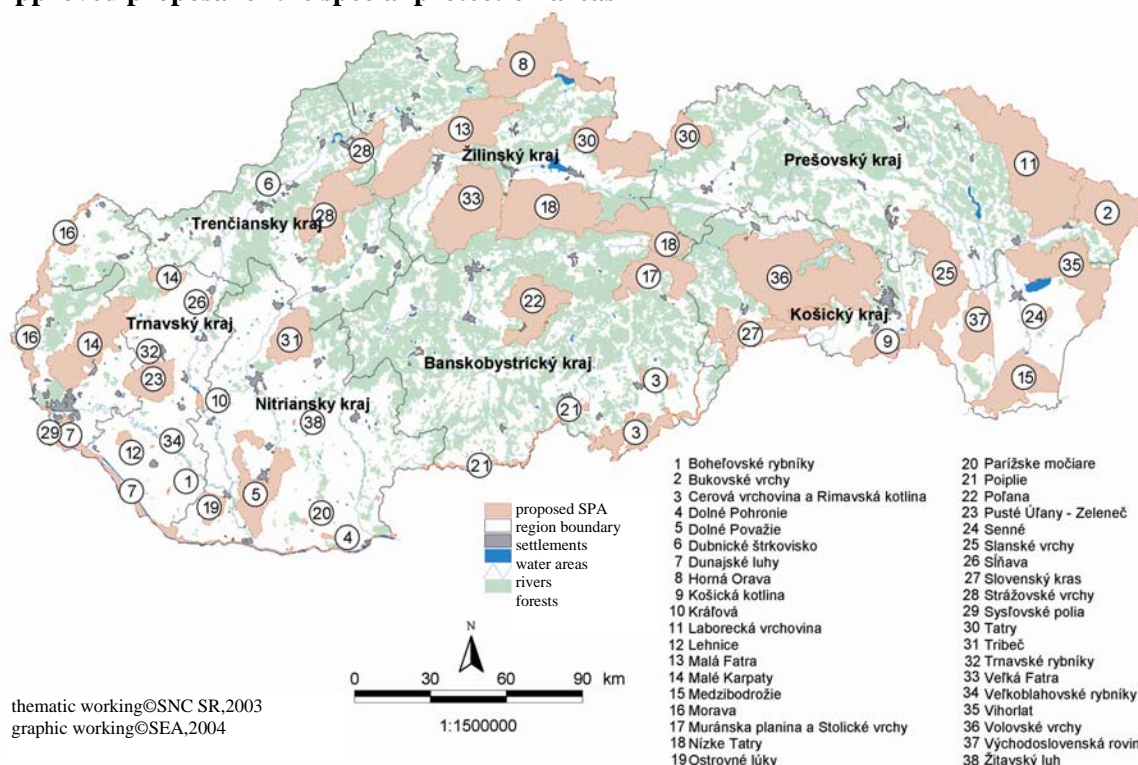
In 2005, there were negotiations with the European Commission, subsequently Slovakia currently undergoes a revision of the national list of those biotopes and species that were considered insufficiently documented.

- **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.**

Approved proposal of the special protection areas



thematic working©SNC SR,2003
graphic working©SEA,2004

Source: SNC SR

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 (2006)

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	8 884	10.6
Czech rep.	38	6 936.2	8.8	841	7 241	9.2
Hungary	55	13 519.1	14.5	467	13 929	15.0
Poland	72	33 156.3	7.8	192	13 124	4.2
Slovakia	38	12 294.8	25.2	382	5 739	11.7
EU-25	4 540	444 368.0	9.6	20 789	559 082	12.2

Source: SNC SR

Protected trees

The network of protected trees in 2006 was created by 478 protected trees and their groups including alleys (protected objects). Physically it is represented by 1 320 solitary trees of 70 taxons,

including 33 domestic and 37 alien taxons.

There were 309 in the **optimal** state (65 %), 136 were **endangered** (28 %) and 33 **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 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
Architectural monuments	7 515	7 549	7 612	7 650	7 709	7 738	7 799
Archaeological monuments	340	342	343	351	354	360	368
Historical monuments	1 397	1 398	1 410	1 373	1 405	1 386	1 382
Historical gardens and parks	333	335	337	339	339	340	341
Folk architecture monuments	1 821	1 821	1 812	1 784	1 837	1 833	1 823
Technical monuments	451	458	462	451	449	454	484
Art work monuments	818	819	943	947	977	1 005	1 015
Total	12 675	12 722	12 919	12 895	13 070	13 116	13 212

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

Source: MB SR

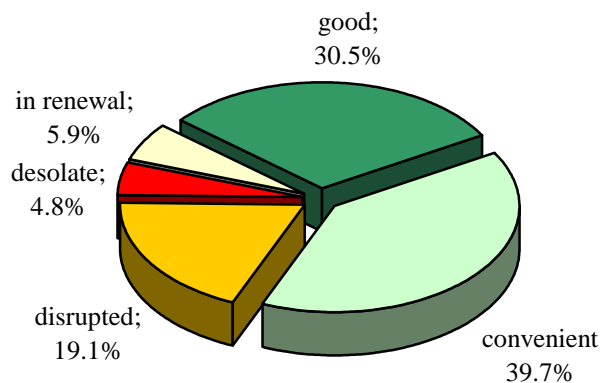
To 31st December 2006, there were 9 525 **immovable national cultural monuments** in Slovakia consisting of **13 212 monument buildings** and **14 437 movable national cultural monuments** (98 % of it has sacral character), which consist of **30 410** cultural articles.

Trend in the number of movable national culture monuments

	1993	2000	2002	2004	2006
Movable NCM	14 687	14 582	14 355	14 363	14 437

Source: MB SR

Construction-technical state of immovable NCM in 2006



Source: MB SR

Trend in the **ownership form** of cultural monuments (CM) in 2006 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 2005-2006 it dropped sharply by 5 % - to 9.2 %. This was the result of the state property delimitation to municipalities and VÚC (upper-tier self-governing units).

In terms of the **construction and technical state**, the year 2006 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 30.5 % in 2006. On the other hand, the percentage of endangered monuments that are disrupted or desolate is also decreasing (from 27 % in 1993 to 23.9 % in 2006). This means that the **state of the majority of monuments moved under the category of convenient**, from 33 % to 39.7 %. When added to the monuments in good state, it is 70.2 % of monument fund that is in satisfactory state.

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 (2006)

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. Vlkolínec	26. 1. 1977	73
10. Ždiar	14. 9. 1977	183

Source: MB SR

Restoration of cultural monuments

In 2006, there was 116 335 thous. SKK in contributions by the MoC SR to the restoration of national cultural monuments in the SR within **513 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
Number of projects	160	920	323	513
Total funding (thousands SKK)	24 000	118 380	94 648	116 335 000

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 2006, the **World Heritage List** contained **851** sites (including 660 cultural, 166 natural, and 23 mixed) from **141** signatory countries to the *Convention concerning the protection of World culture and natural heritage*, **five** of them from the Slovak territory. These are:

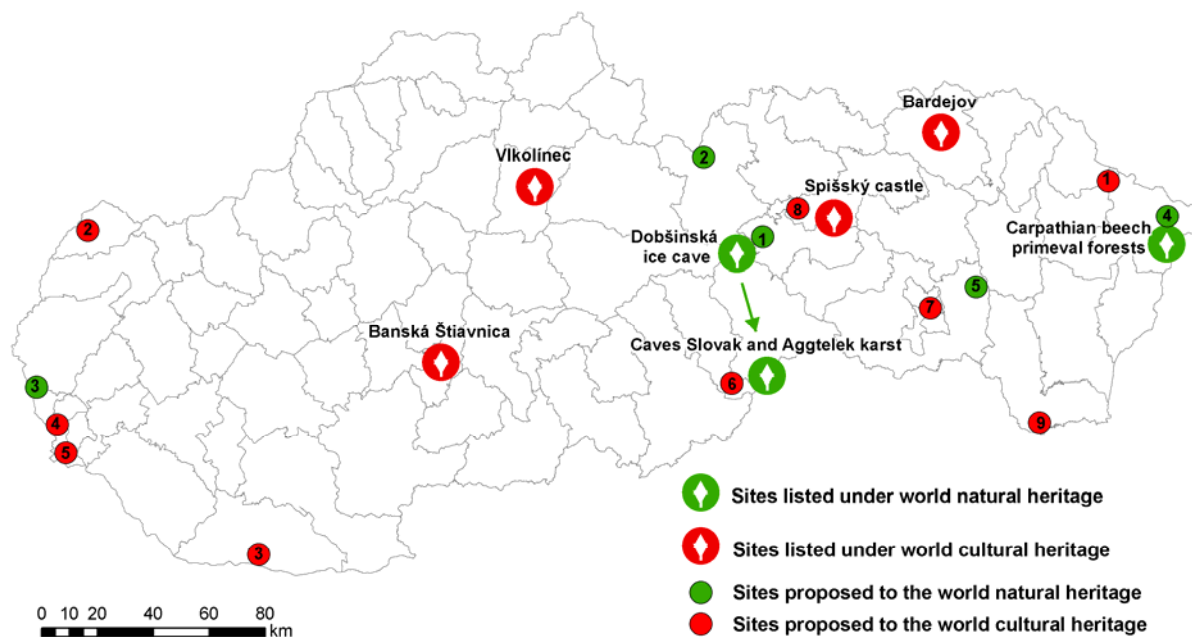
Under cultural heritage:

- **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



Source: SEA

Comparison of the number of World Heritage sites (WH) with the surrounding countries to 2006

Country	Number of WH sites
Slovakia	5
Czech republic	12
Poland	13
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 to 2006 include:

Under cultural heritage

1. **Wooden sacral architecture in the Carpathians** (planned common proposal with Poland, Hungary, and Ukraine),
2. **Great Moravian settlements:** Slavic fortification complex in Mikulčice and the St. Margaret Church in Kopčany,
3. **Komárno – fortification against the Turks** (together with Hungary),
4. **Monument to Chatam Sófer** in Bratislava,
5. **Limes Romanus – Roman monuments on the middle Danube** (together with Austria, Hungary, in Slovakia only Iža and Rusovce),

6. **Gemer and Abov churches with medieval wall paintings** (planned project 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),
9. **Tokay vineyard area** (Černov, Veľká Tàňa, Malá Tàňa, Slovenské Nové Mesto, Černochoy, Bara, Viničky; inclusion into the Tokay vineyard area in Hungary).

Under nature heritage

1. **Karst valleys of the West Carpathians** (addition to the proposal on the Slovak Paradise gorge),
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. **Geyser in Herľany.**



Spatial planning systematically and comprehensively solves the spatial arrangement and functional use of the territory, sets it 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 4 457 inhabitants, mainly due to immigration. As of December 31, 2006, population count in the Slovak Republic reached the number of **5 393 637**. 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 (2006)

Territory	Live births	Dead	Natural increment (loss)	Migration increment (loss)	Total increment (loss)	Number of inhabitants (to 31 st December 2006)
Bratislavský region	5 921	5 853	68	2 986	3 054	606 753
Trnavský region	5 059	5 604	-545	1 448	903	555 075
Trenčiansky region	5 075	5 875	-800	261	-539	599 847
Nitriansky region	6 024	7 992	-1 968	775	-1 193	707 305
Žilinský region	6 980	6 623	357	206	563	695 326
Banskobystrický region	6 215	7 158	-943	-414	-1 357	655 762
Prešovský region	9 576	6 813	2 763	-876	1 887	800 483
Košický region	9 054	7 383	1 671	-532	1 139	773 086
Slovak Republic	53 904	53 301	603	3 854	4 457	5 393 637

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 2006)

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	296	73	8 311.68	82.91	17.09
Trnavský region	4 147	134	251	2 211.45	49.07	50.93
Trenčiansky region	4 502	133	276	2 173.36	57.12	42.88
Nitriansky region	6 343	112	354	1 998.04	47.19	52.81
Žilinský region	6 808	102	315	2 207.38	50.58	49.42
Banskobystrický region	9 455	69	516	1 270.86	53.72	46.28
Prešovský region	8 974	89	666	1 201.93	49.54	50.46
Košický region	6 752	114	440	1 757.01	56.03	43.97
Slovak Republic	49 034	110	2 891	1 865.66	55.35	44.65

Source: SO SR

Index trend in the SR area structure

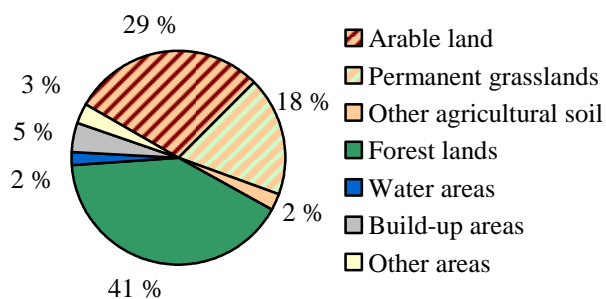
SR is the balanced mosaic composed from the urbanized settlements environment, agricultural and forest countryside, which plays also the production and restoration function for small and larger settlements in Slovakia. Within transformation of the national economy there continually comes to **natural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

Overall land categories to 31st December 2006 (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	75 061	0	4 629	4 528	984	9 841	95 044	75 249	5 567	15 402	13 996	205 259
TT	263 423	129	4 302	8 187	2 469	14 748	293 258	65 315	14 609	27 385	14 146	414 712
TN	98 312	369	68	8 139	2 604	76 768	186 260	220 588	6 311	23 126	13 923	450 207
NR	406 693	35	12 186	14 230	5 090	30 951	469 187	96 136	15 684	37 678	15 657	634 341
ZA	63 207	0	0	6 135	404	176 192	245 939	379 925	12 800	25 047	17 170	680 881
BB	166 682	0	3 304	11 138	1 959	235 465	418 548	462 479	7 905	33 069	23 473	945 474
PR	149 693	0	23	10 912	2 139	221 867	384 635	440 629	14 132	31 321	26 625	897 342
KE	204 286	0	2 801	13 543	2 143	115 040	337 813	266 619	16 317	34 064	20 367	675 181
Total	1 427 357	534	27 314	76 813	17 792	880 873	2 430 683	2 006 939	93 325	227 092	145 357	4 903 397

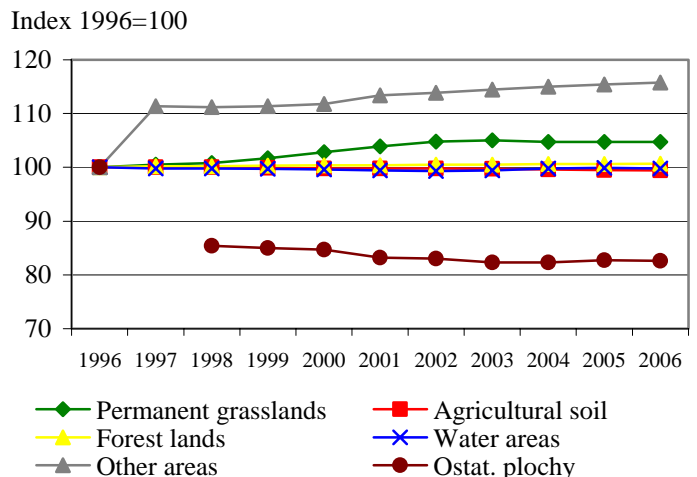
Source: IGCC SR

Areas structure in the SR (2006)



Source: IGCC SR

Index trend in areas structure of SR



Source: IGCC SR

Green in the residential areas

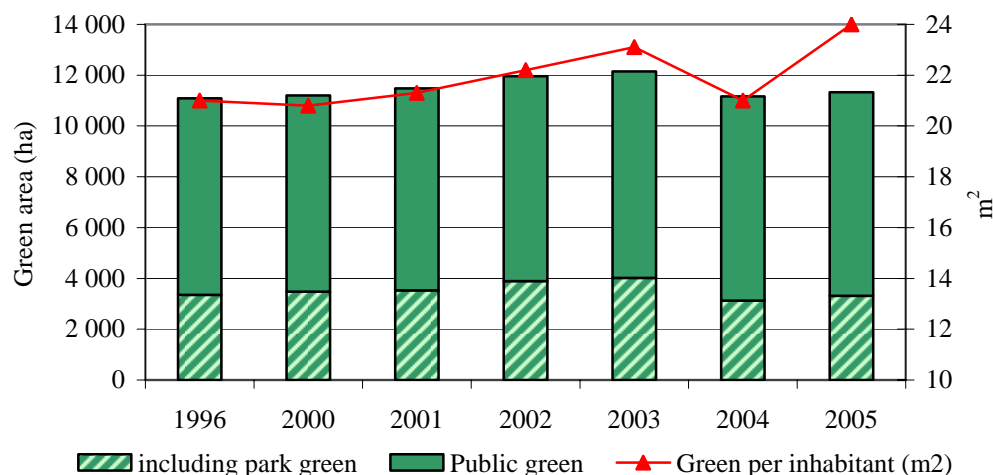
As of **2005**, areas of municipal green in the SR reached **11 334 ha**, including 3 308 ha of park green areas. Its share per one inhabitant was **24 m²**. Trend in the public greenery size over the last years was positive, notwithstanding its decrease in 2004.

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

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.

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.

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**.

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.**

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 Environment Agency) is the executive authority for the MoE SR.

In 2006, *Implementation Programme of the European Convention on Landscape in the SR* was developed and approved within the Operation Programme scheme of the MoE SR. The Convention proposes measures to implement its individual parts, as well as to ensure effective cooperation with programmes of implementation of related international treaties and protocols, and other strategic documents. The activities focus on developing a typology of the Slovak landscape, methodology procedures for characteristic landscape identification, assessment of landscape features, typology of urban spaces, identification of historical landscape structures, significant landscape elements, endangered types of landscape, definition of target landscape quality, and ensuring public involvement in its definition.

Assessment of implementation of the European Landscape Convention in 2006:

- **Involvement in the Council's activities** (V. workshop „*Landscape quality objectives: from theory to practise*“ in Giron, Spain)
- **Involvement in the EC activities** (participating in the workshop "*Ecological coherence of Natura 2000*" at DG Environment in Brussels with a presentation on methods, state, and Slovak legislation regarding landscape planning)

- **International cooperation** (cooperation with the Czech Republic through organising workshops, exchange of professional experience and specialists; SR initiated a cooperation with the V4 countries and introduced the idea of its implementation in the SR)
- **Active participation in international conferences**

Activities at the national level

- **Organizing a conference** - X. international conference of *Landscape - man - culture* organized as part of the XII. international film festival on environment called ENVIROFILM in Banská Bystrica, addressing the topic of „*Ways to the implementation of the European convention on landscape in the V4 countries.*”
- **Active participation at conferences and seminars with international participation**
- **Training of specialists and local governments**
- **Establishing of cooperation** with international institutions and organisations
- **Opening new topics**
 - **characteristic type of landscape**
 - **fragmentation of landscape and habitats** under the Habitats Directive (art.10)
 - **role of greenery** in sustainable development of settlements
- **Publishing activities** – information brochure “*European landscape convention*” for the public, posters, atlas of representative geosystems of Slovakia (REPGES) ...

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 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 2006, the VRP support reached total volume of **15 mil. SKK**. Subsidy categories were adjusted to take into consideration the preferences of the Ministry of Environment SR.

Total overview of allocating the subsidies to VRP in 2006 (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
63	6 365 000	104	7 800 000	9	825 000	176	14 990 000

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

Source: SEA

Overview of allocating the subsidies to VRP

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	1998 - 2006
Total subsidies (thous. SKK)	8 100	6 500	10 000	19 500	20 000	25 000	4 996	5 230	14 990	114 316
Average allocation (SKK)	49 693	46 099	56 497	60 372	67 114	87 108	79 302	76 912	85 170	67 585
Number of applications	794	766	718	858	910	1 091	899	699	775	7 510
Number of allocations	163	141	177	319	298	278	63	68	176	1 683
% of satisfied application	20.5	18.4	24.7	37.2	32.7	25.5	7.0	9.7	22.7	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 Krúš 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.

In 2006, the village of Vlachovo represented Slovakia in the European Village Renewal Award competition. Motto of the competition was: “*Change as a challenge*”, with the village of Koudum winning from among 30 competing municipalities. The village of Vlachovo made a very good impression in the competition and received an award recognising its development that has been built on the connection of construction, cultural, and landscape qualities, as well as acceptable tourism.

