

• 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,

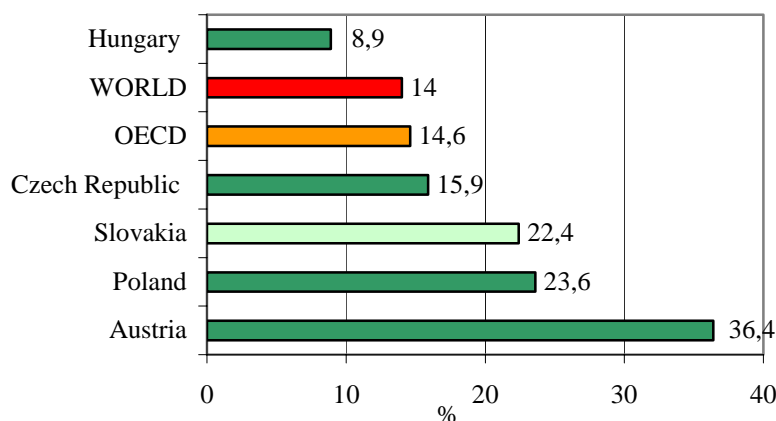
- protected landscape fragment,

- 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 2008, 4 new protected areas were **declared** (2 PS and 2 NR), 5 new protected trees, and 2 protected cave protection zones, **updated** were 15 protected areas (13 NM and 2 NNM), **cancelled** was 1 protected area (PS) and 10 protected trees.

Proportion of PA on total size for selected countries



Source: OECD

Protected areas in the Slovak Republic (state to 31st December 2008)

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 landscape fragment	1	3	-	0.00
Protected sites	168	5 239	2 419	0.16
Nature reserves	386	12 999	244	0.27
National nature reserves	219	84 156	2 401	1.77
Nature monuments	240	1 600	260	0.04
National nature monuments	60	59	1 577	0.03
Total SSPA*	1 074	104 056	6 903	2.26
Total 2th-5th level of protection (PA)	-	1 134 489		23.14

* SSPA – small-size protected areas

Source: SNC SR

In total, **in the territory of PLA** there are **242 small-size** protected areas (SSPA) (this represents 2.3 % of total PLA territory), while **in the territory of NP and their protective zones (PZ)** there are **269 SSPA** (12.5 % of the NP area and their PZs). **Outside PLA, NP, and NP PZ**, which means **the open landscape**, there are **563** small-size protection areas (0.7 % of the open landscape area).

◆ **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 1 074 small-size protected areas in the 3th - 5th level of protection, there were **degraded** 35 territories of area of 356 ha (this area presents 0.3 % of total area of SSPA), 438 were **endangered** of area of 20 192 ha (18.2 % of SSPA) and in the **optimal condition** there were 601 territories of area of 90 411 ha (81.5 % of SSPA).

◆ **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 4.6 mil. SKK, with more impacts into this territory (mowing, tree cutting, elimination of younglings and other).

During the year 2008 State Nature Conservancy of the SR (SNC SR) elaborated 8 194 **nature and landscape impact proposals**. The biggest rate was created by the building and regional planning activities (31.0 %) and department of tree species protection (16.7 %). Viewpoints relating to species protection of the plants and animals created 11.9 %, forestry 8.8 %, territorial protection 7.4 %, water management 6.4 %, EIA 5.4 %, agriculture 4.3 % and inorganic nature 3.8 % of all viewpoints.

In 2008, professional nature protection organisations carried out **21 inventory surveys** within small-size protected areas (SPA). Presently, there are also **7 rescue programmes** approved for SPAs.

In 2008 there were (within the organisation units of State Nature Conservancy of the SR) **71 education paths and 36 education localities** put in operation. **13 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)	407.0	546.8	1 450.8	2 414.5	1 199.6

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.

Source: SNC SR

◆ 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.

- With the European Commission approving the decisions for the **Pannonian** and **Alpine** biogeographical areas, the process of approving Sites of Community importance was completed for Slovakia, while 381 SCIs from the national list became Sites of Community importance;
- Publishing the decisions marked the start of a **6-year time limit** for the declaration of SCIs as protected areas. Since 170 SCIs are located within the national network of protected areas, there is not need to declare them again. The process of declaration involves 97 SCIs that do not overlap with the

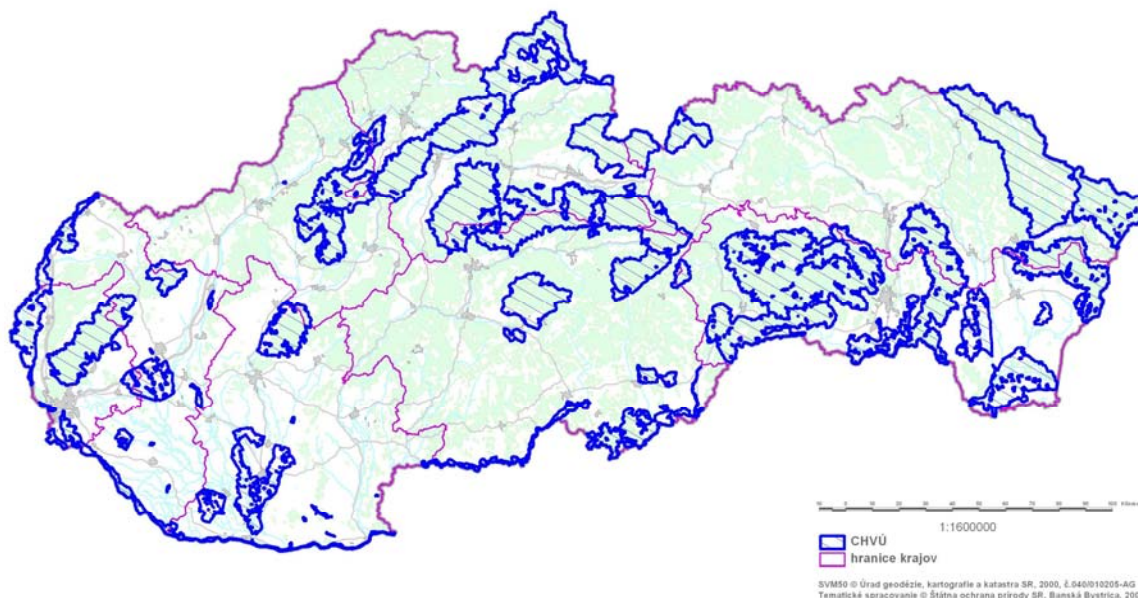
national network of protected areas, while 114 SCIs partially overlap with the inventory, all declared by the Slovak Republic in line with the national legislation of the PS and NR categories;

- On the basis of the outcomes of bio-geographical seminars, Slovakia was required to complete the SCIs national list. In relation to the Slovak Government Resolution 256/2008 (Re-evaluation of the Natura 2000 network) a number of SCIs additions was discarded, adjusted, or complemented.
- To add, the Alpine bio-geographic region followed up on the outcomes of the bio-geographic seminars, with marking 17 habitats and 23 species. No new territories were added for 1 habitat and 5 species. There was a need to add territories for 16 habitats and 29 species in the Pannonian bio-geographic region. No new territories were added for 1 habitat and 2 species. The reason for not designating of territories for these habitats and species is the absence of knowledge on their occurrence outside the SCIs approved by the European Commission, despite the implemented surveys.

- **Special Protection Areas (SPA)** - national list of pSPA includes **38 SPA** with total area of **1 154 111 ha** and covers **23.5 % of the SR area** and lapping of pSPA with the existing network of protected areas in the SR presents 55 %.

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 2008, there **were declared 19 SPAs** by a single resolution.

Special protection areas in SR



Source: SNC SR

Agricultural and forestland in the NATURA 2000 territories

NATURA	Number	Area (ha)	Agricultural land	Share of agricultural	Forest land	Share of forest
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2000			area (ha)	land (%)	area (ha)	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

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

* only terrestrial NATURA 2000 sites

Source: SNC SR

Protected trees

The network of protected trees in 2008 was created by 466 protected trees and their groups including alleys (protected objects). Physically it is represented by 1 282 solitary trees of 67 taxons, including 32 domestic and 35 alien taxons.

There were 280 in the **optimal** state (60 %), 149 were **endangered** (32 %) and 37 **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.

• MONUMENT FUND AND ITS PROTECTION

Monument fund

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

Categorization of immovable NCM*	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Architectural monuments	7 549	7 612	7 650	7 709	7 738	7 799	7 802	8 069
Archaeological monuments	342	343	351	354	360	368	369	376
Historical monuments	1 398	1 410	1 373	1 405	1 386	1 382	1380	1394
Historical gardens and parks	335	337	339	339	340	341	344	344
Folk architecture monuments	1 821	1 812	1 784	1 837	1 833	1 823	1 821	1 902
Technical monuments	458	462	451	449	454	484	496	500
Art work monuments	819	943	947	977	1 005	1 015	1 007	1 367
Total	12 722	12 919	12 895	13 070	13 116	13 212	13 228	13 952

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

Source: MB SR

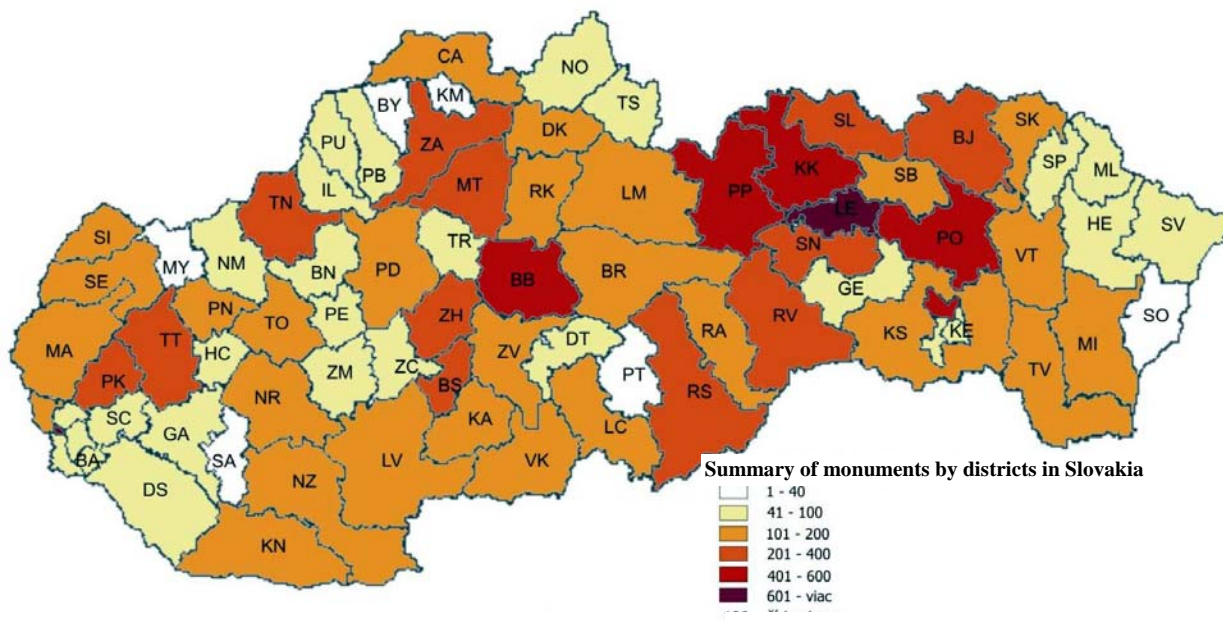
To 31st December 2008, there were 9 539 **immovable national cultural monuments** in Slovakia consisting of **13 952 monument buildings** and **14 493 movable national cultural monuments** (98 % of it has sacral character), which consist of **31 220** cultural articles.

Literary sources point to the past existence of 300 **castles** in Slovakia. Presently, the 9 539 immovable national culture monuments include 109 **castles** and 436 **mansions**. **Monument objects** within the NCM in 2008 register:

- 561 mansions and family households
- 109 castles
- 77 monasteries
- 1571 churches
- 1 329 people's government houses
- 2 400 manor houses
- 189 palaces and villas
- 642 road sculptures and crosses
- 506 commemorative wall tablets and commemorative sites

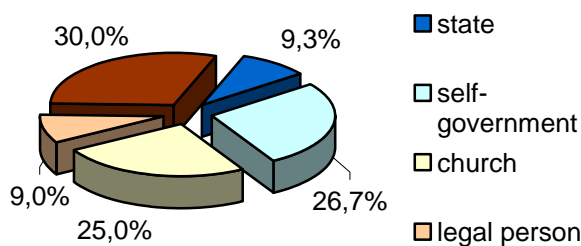
As of 2008, there were 48 **unused** cultural monuments in Slovakia (according to the MB SR catalogue).

Summary of monuments by districts in Slovakia



Source: MB SR

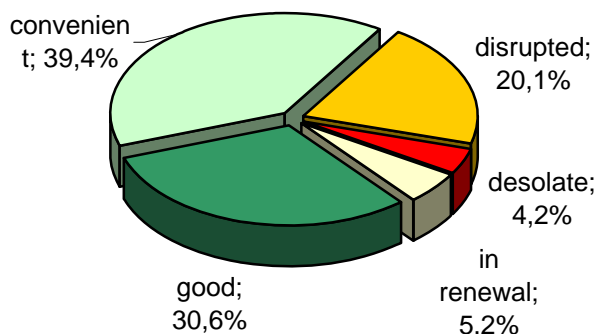
Ownership form of cultural monuments in 2008



Source: MB SR

In terms of the **construction and technical state**, there were 2 808 immovable national cultural monuments that were damaged, 654 were in desolate condition, and 729 were in renewal (5.2 %). In 2008, condition of the monuments was stabilised, there was a slight improvement to the condition of monuments within the municipal monument reserve. 70 % of all monuments are in satisfactory (good and convenient) condition.

Construction-technical state of immovable NCM in 2008



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 (2008)

Historical settlement structures (HSS)	Total number of HSS
Town reserves	18
Folk architecture reserves	10
Historical preserved parks	340
Monument zones	83

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

Source: MB SR

Restoration of cultural monuments

In 2008, there was 163 101.5 thous. SKK in contributions by the MoC SR to the restoration of national cultural monuments in the SR within **370 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"

Number of projects	160	920	323	513	389	370
Total funding (thousands SKK)	24 000	118 380	94 648	116 335 000	109 674 000	163 101 500

Source: MB SR

• SLOVAK CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD HERITAGE

Sites enlisted under the World Heritage List

In 2008, the **World Heritage List** contained **887** sites (including 688 cultural, 174 natural, and 25 mixed) from **148** signatory countries to the *Convention concerning the protection of World culture and natural heritage*.

Trend in total number of sites in World Heritage List

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of enlisted sites	690	721	730	755	788	811	851	878	887
including cultural	-	554	563	582	611	630	660	679	688
natural	-	144	144	150	154	159	166	174	174
mixed	-	23	23	23	23	23	23	25	25
Number of Convention signatory countries	-	-	125	134	134	137	141	145	148

Source: MoC SR

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 Tvrdošín, 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 2008.

Under cultural heritage:

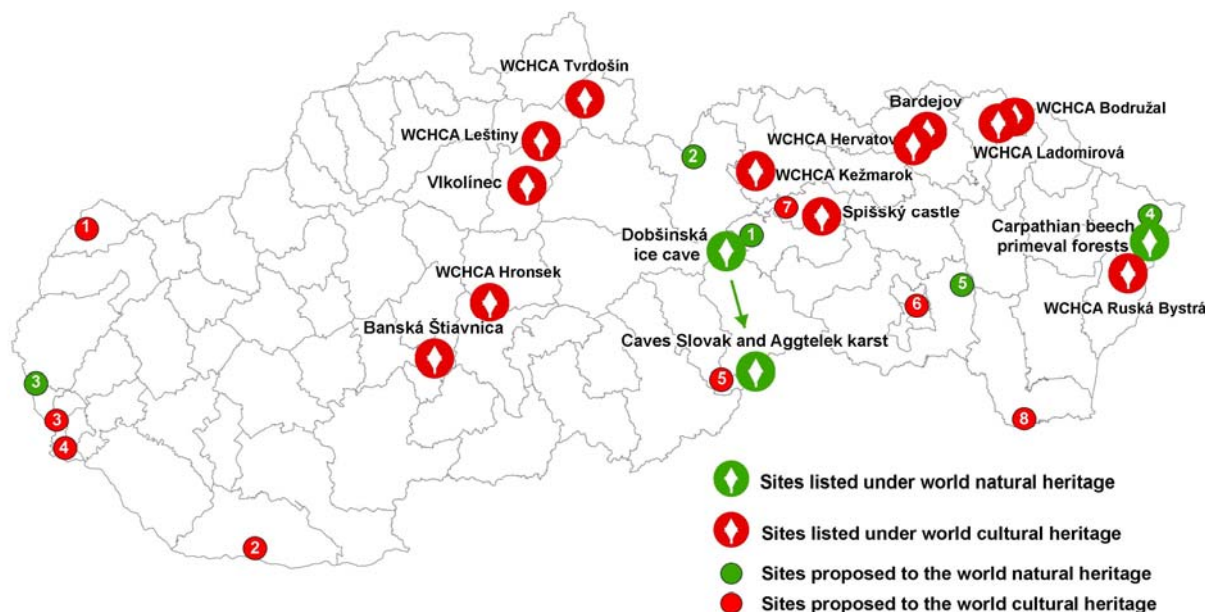
- **Vlkolíne**c Folk Architecture Reserve, local district of Ružomberok (Cartagena, 1993),
- **Spišský** castle and cultural monuments in its surroundings in protective zone of NCM - Spišská Kapitula, Spišské Podhradie, Church of the Holy Ghost in Žehra (Cartagena, 1993),
- **Banská Štiavnica** with 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 karst** (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 2008

Country	Number of WH sites (cultural/natural)
Slovakia	7 (5/2)
Czech Republic	12 (12/0)
Poland	13 (12/1)
Hungary	8 (7/1)
Austria	8 (8/0)
Ukraine	4 (3/1)

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 2008 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 Táža, Malá Táža, 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.**

In 2008, nomination projects for the municipal monument reserve Levoča, and a common project with the Czech Republic - Monuments of the Great Moravia (sites of Kopčany and Mikulčice) were prepared.

• 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 3 895 inhabitants, mainly due to immigration. As of December 31, 2008, population count in the Slovak Republic reached the number of **5 412 254**. 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 (2008)

Territory	Live births	Dead	Natural increment (loss)	Migration increment (loss)	Total increment (loss)	Number of inhabitants (to 31 st December 2008)
Bratislavský region	6 840	5 792	1 048	4 680	5 728	616 578
Trnavský region	5 358	5 468	-110	2 893	2 783	559 934
Trenčiansky region	5 420	5 880	-460	488	28	599 859
Nitriansky region	6 508	8 062	-1 554	1 171	-383	706 375
Žilinský region	7 407	6 800	607	42	649	696 347
Banskobystrický region	6 381	7 019	-638	-333	-971	653 697
Prešovský region	10 022	6 760	3 262	-1 246	2 016	803 955
Košický region	9 424	7 383	2 041	-635	1 406	775 509
Slovak Republic	57 360	53 164	4 196	7 060	11 256	5 412 254

Source: SO SR

Structure of the settlement in the SR (to 31st December 2008)

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	300,3	73	8 446,3	82,30	17,70
Trnavský region	4 147	135,0	251	2 230,8	48,57	51,43
Trenčiansky region	4 502	133,2	276	2 173,4	56,80	43,20
Nitriansky region	6 343	111,4	354	1 995,4	46,80	53,20
Žilinský region	6 808	102,3	315	2 210,6	50,30	49,70
Banskobystrický region	9 455	69,1	516	1 266,9	53,47	46,53
Prešovský region	8 974	89,6	666	1 207,1	49,25	50,75
Košický region	6 752	114,9	440	1 762,5	55,72	44,28
Slovak Republic	49 034	110,4	2 891	1 872,1	55,03	44,97

Source: SO SR

Index trend in the SR area structure

Trend in the structure of areas of Slovakia in 2008 was affected by further **loss of agricultural land types and arable land types**, giving way to forest land, non-agricultural, and non-forested land types. Compared to 2007, the loss of agricultural land types has grown by 3 637 ha, to the present figure of -5

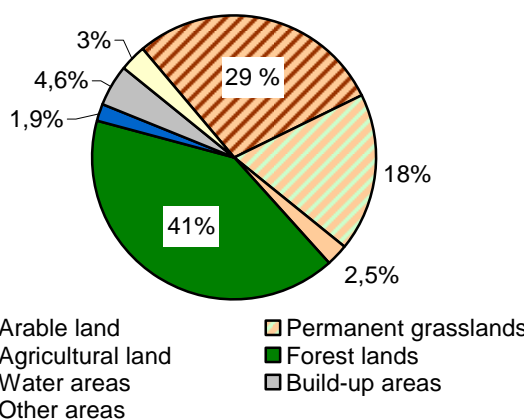
421 ha. Of this, the loss of arable land was greater by 2 583 ha and represents -4 044 ha. As opposed to 2007, the size of forested land increased by another 912 ha (reaching 1 115 ha).

Overall land categories to 31st December 2008 (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	73 423	.	4 591	4 543	961	9 987	93 504	75 195	5 769	15 958	14 841	205 268
TT	262 098	129	4 264	8 202	2 459	14 763	291 916	65 253	15 620	27 773	14 107	414 668
TN	97 844	354	77	8 122	2 596	96 360	185 353	220 889	6 366	23 405	14 203	450 216
NR	406 761	36	12 150	14 179	4 978	30 566	468 669	96 337	15 691	37 902	15 784	634 384
ZA	62 615	.	.	6 112	398	175 938	245 063	380 173	12 809	25 208	17 624	680 878
BB	166 204	.	3 307	11 102	1 864	235 093	417 571	462 763	7 907	33 204	23 999	545 443
PR	148 886	.	23	10 840	2 034	222 153	383 936	440 742	12 122	31 497	27 088	897 385
KE	204 022	.	2 845	13 536	2 070	114 992	337 466	266 905	16 291	34 112	20 688	675 462
Total	1 421 022	520	27 258	76 636	17 360	879 853	2 423 478	200 905	94 575	229 059	148 335	4 903 704

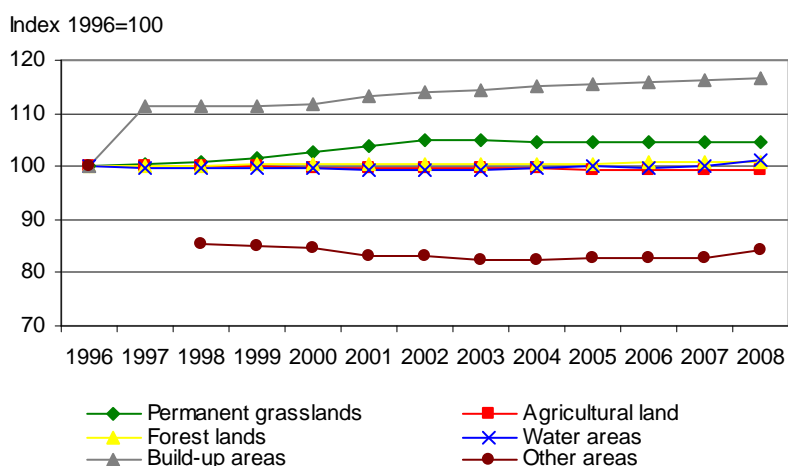
Source: IGCC SR

Areas structure in the SR (2008)



Source: IGCC SR

Index trend in areas structure of SR



Source: IGCC SR

Green in the residential areas

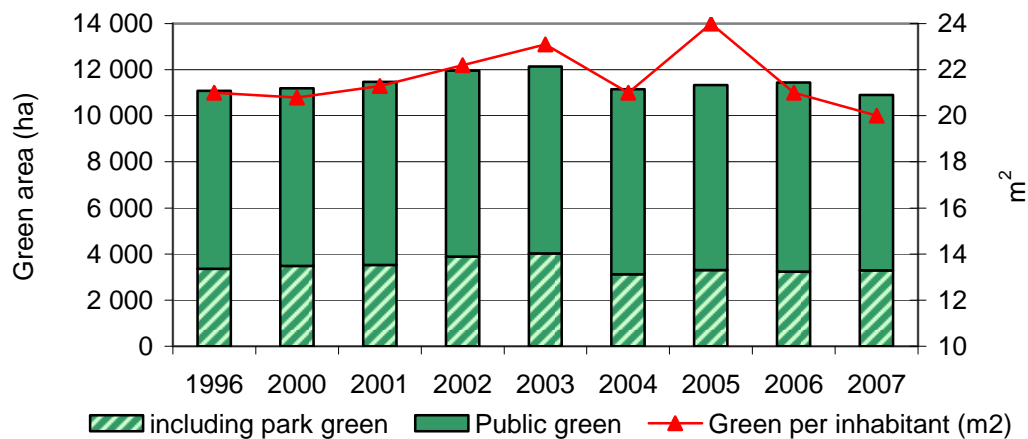
As of 2007, areas of municipal green in the SR reached 10 904 ha, including 3 295 ha of park green areas. Its share per one inhabitant was 20 m².

Area of municipal green of the SR by regions (2007)

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	1 152	939	372	276	19	19
TT	1 446	809	402	136	26	30
TN	1 287	917	338	191	21	27
NR	1 953	973	590	172	28	29
ZA	610	400	279	166	9	11
BB	1 468	873	432	255	22	25
PR	1 349	863	378	202	17	22
KE	1 638	1 042	486	209	21	24
Total	10 904	6 817	3 295	1 608	20	23

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 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.

All self-governing regions have valid physical plans that are updated on the need-to-need basis, pursuant to the provisions of Act 50/1976 Coll. on physical planning and building code (Construction Law) as amended.

Pursuant to the Edict of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of SR of August 8, 2005 on providing subsidies for development of physical documentation of municipalities, the Ministry has been giving subsidies since 2006.

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)
- year 2008 total 7 mil. SKK (32 municipalities).

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, 2008, 36 countries acceded to the convention, 29 countries ratified it and another two countries made it effective (Sweden and Hungary), i.e. the legislation is effective in 30 countries within the Council of Europe.

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.

Assessment of implementation of the European Landscape Convention in 2008:

The year of 2008 in the context of implementation of the convention was marked mainly by preparatory activities on the accompanying legislation of the convention, organizing educational activities for the professional and lay public, building of platform for professional cooperation with international institutions, especially with the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, Council of Europe, and land survey oriented mainly on the area of the White Carpathians. Major activities include organizing the Land - Man - Culture conference in 2008, dealing with new professional perspectives on approaches to landscape conservation.

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 2008, the VRP support reached total volume of **25 mill. SKK**. Subsidy categories were adjusted to take into consideration the preferences of the Ministry of Environment.

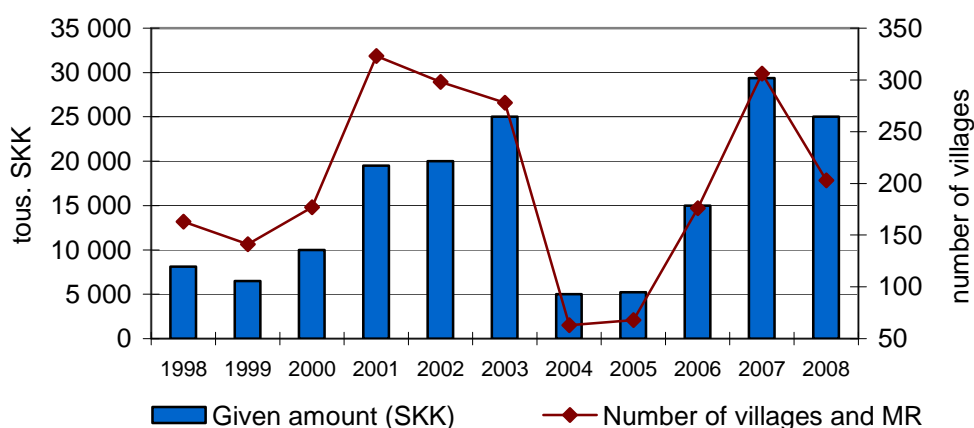
Total overview of allocating the subsidies to VRP in 2008 (SKK)

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
69	7 340 000	120	15 330 000	14	2 330 000	203	25 000 000

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

Source: SEA

Trend of allocating the subsidies to 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, in 2006 it was the village of Vlachovo from the district of Rožňava that had won the competition in 2005 and in 2008 it was the village of Liptovská Teplička from the district of Poprad that had won the competition in 2007.

In 2008, the village of **Liptovská Teplička** represented Slovakia at the 10th European Village Renewal Award competition. Motto of the competition was: "*Future through social innovations*" with the Italian village of Sand in Taufers from the southern Tirol becoming the winner from among 29 contesting municipalities. The village of Liptovská Teplička achieved a big success - it fought to become the winner of the competition with other 6 villages, and eventually got away with the European Village Renewal Prize for its complex, sustainable village renewal programme of an outstanding value.