

Application by the Republic of Hungary

**FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE MEDIEVAL
ROYAL SEAT AND FOREST AT VISEGRÁD
IN THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

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1. Introduction

1.1. Statement of Significance

The Medieval Royal Seat and Forest at Visegrád is a unique complex of a medieval royal seat: castles, palace, garden, Franciscan friary and a Royal Forest, all composing elements of this outstanding cultural landscape, which was formed from the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries. The site is one of the last surviving examples of a once typical combination of a royal seat and hunting ground. Visegrád, some monuments of which are the first products of Renaissance outside Italy, is also a symbol of medieval co-operation among the kingdoms of Central Europe, providing a constant source of inspiration for the repeatedly interrupted modernisation of the region.

1.2. Role of the Proposed World Heritage Status for the Site

The area of the proposed World Heritage site is under multiple protection. The whole area is part of the Duna-Ipoly National Park (since 1997), subject to Act No. LIII of 1996 on Nature Conservation. The woods are also protected by Act No. LIV of 1996 on the Protection of Woodland. The Pilis part of the National Park (the buffer zone of the site) is also one of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, although that does not carry further protection in a legal sense. The built heritage managed by the Museum is subject to Act LIV of 1997 on Historic Building Preservation. At the moment, there is no territorial protection in Visegrád, but the buildings of the site are all protected individually. It is obvious that there is no need for further legal protection. The site, however, lacks a deeper understanding and appreciation *as a Royal Forest*. In consequence – although it is mostly state-owned – it is managed by several different institutions. The World Heritage status will be a major step towards a situation where the integrity of the site is also reflected in unified management. Only this will ensure that the *meaning* of the site is preserved.

1.3. Role and Function of the Management Plan

In Hungary, World Heritage management plans have no statutory basis. Rather, they provide an advisory policy framework for guiding and influencing current and planned management initiatives. Achieving the desired aims for the World Heritage site depends on those signing up to the Management Plan working effectively together in partnership.

The role of the Management Plan is that following the all-inclusive recording of the present condition of the site (ownership, environmental conditions, legal status, legal protection,

research and restoration, national, regional and local development and management plans, maintenance and operation) it should define short-, medium- and long-term tasks concerning the following:

- research
- monument protection
- environmental protection
- management
- utilisation of the site

The Management Plan should also result in recommendations for the method for harmonising the activities related to historical monuments, archaeological sites and the cultural landscape. One particular aspect of the Management Plan of the proposed World Heritage site is to achieve a balanced new policy in which the cultural landscape and the complex of historical monuments can form one single unit of human activities.

2. The Site

2.1. Introduction

The *Medieval Royal Seat and Forest at Visegrád* is one of the last European remains of a Royal Forest. Such a Forest was a territory set aside from common law and preserved for royal hunting (primarily of deer). This resulted in an unconscious policy towards what would be termed today as ‘nature conservation.’ At Visegrád, this policy has been continuous for a thousand years. Forests were also to express the sacred nature of royal power, therefore they often incorporated monastic houses or hermitages associated with the royal house. A Royal Forest includes built heritage – the royal residence, hunting lodges; and natural heritage – the hunting ground. Royal rights were rarely exclusive, most Forests had common rights attached to them, therefore Forests evolved as exceptionally complicated systems with consequently intricate landscapes. All elements in such landscapes were of equal importance, which is why Royal Forests are extremely rarely preserved fully intact. While a Royal Forest, strictly speaking, was characteristic of medieval Europe, the association of royal power, hunting, deer and sacred spaces is known outside Europe as well. For example the World Heritage site of the *Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara*, Japan – essentially the eighth-century capital of the island – includes the Kasuga hills with the sacred deer *Cervus nippon*, which are closely connected to a Buddhist monastery in the region.

Visegrád is a significant cultural landscape in the above context. It contains a royal castle (of two parts), a royal palace with its renaissance garden, a Franciscan friary, and the woodland of Pilis within the Duna-Ipoly National Park. None of these – with the exception of the palace, which has the first products of Renaissance outside Italy – represent unique values, and all are preserved in and restored to various conditions, however, their *combination* make them an outstanding monument of the kind of landscape structure that was prevailing for half a millennium and created the richest cultural landscapes we know. What enhances the value of this group of landscape elements is that they were – by European standards – untouched until the nineteenth century, therefore many of their medieval features were corrupted by deterioration rather than early-modern restructuring.

2.2. Core Area and Buffer Zone

The *Medieval Royal Seat and Forest at Visegrád* consists of two parts: the core area and the buffer zone. The core area equals the township of Visegrád except for the built up inner areas, from which only the royal palace, the two castles, the Franciscan friary, and the Roman fortress on Sibrik-hill are included. The buffer zone is the Pilis area of the Duna-Ipoly National Park, which is also one of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves since 1981. The core area is 3058 ha, the buffer zone is 19,624 ha.

There are two core-areas of the Biosphere Reserve in the proposed World Heritage core area and further eight in the buffer zone.

a. Apátkúti-bérc - Órhegy

The territory, stretching into the hornbeam-oak region, is very varied. Its vegetation follows the diverse landscape conditions: almost all the wood-types of Pilis are represented here. One may also find a conifer plantation, and the botanical garden of Visegrád lies nearby. Among the protected plants, the most important are *Carex brevicollis*, different species of *Iris*, and *Carduus collinus*. Remarkable examples of *Mercuriali-Tilietum*, and the continental *Corno-Quercetum pubescenti-petraeae* woods are to be found, the latter was first described here. On the steep rocky terrain, *Festucetalia valesiaca* meadows and their secondary edges present an opportunity to examine human effects. Further comparison is possible between the extrazonal valley *Quercus petraeae-Carpinetum* woods and the zonal mountain stock. The scattered meadows are also of high significance.

b. Prédikálószték

This is the most significant research sample-area of the Biosphere Reserve Programme, where most of the complex analyses take place. The vegetation was mapped in the 1950s, and thus the effects of different changes may be properly analysed, particularly with the help of aerial photography. The rich flora, fauna, and the variety of soil-types are all reflected in the diverse vegetation pattern. Due to the great differences in latitude, zonal, extra-zonal, and edaphic formations are all found here. One of the richest types of rocky vegetation lives on Vadálló stones: its most significant species are *Carex brevicollis*, *Hesperis matronalis ssp. Candida*, *Carduus collinus*, *Dictamnus albus*, maidenhair, several *Iris* types, and some rare but not protected plants. Zoological rarities and new species have been found in recent years, especially lichens.

c. Esztergom: Szamárhegy-Kerektó

This shows a diverse vegetational pattern, including some endemic species, for example *Achilla hordánszkyi*. Kerektó is the only marshland in the neighbouring region, and is especially valuable, if somewhat fragmented.

d. Ábrahámbükk - Vértes-hegy

This is a small area, yet all vegetation types between the two extreme micro climatic possibilities may be found here. There is one relic woodland type: *Quercetum petraeae-caricetum humilis*.

e. Öregpáhegy

This is particularly valuable because of the valleys, where non-managed woodland is growing and may be subject to investigation.

f. Feketekő

The only northern dolomite rock of Pilis, this is a special habitat for endemic species, such as *Dianthus plumarius ssp. regis stephani*.

g. Pilistető

This is the highest peak of Pilis, and the only Hungarian habitat of *Ferula sadleriana*, an ice-age relic.

h. Cserepesvölgy - Árpádvár

This is significant, because it is the meeting point of lime-stone and volcanic territory.

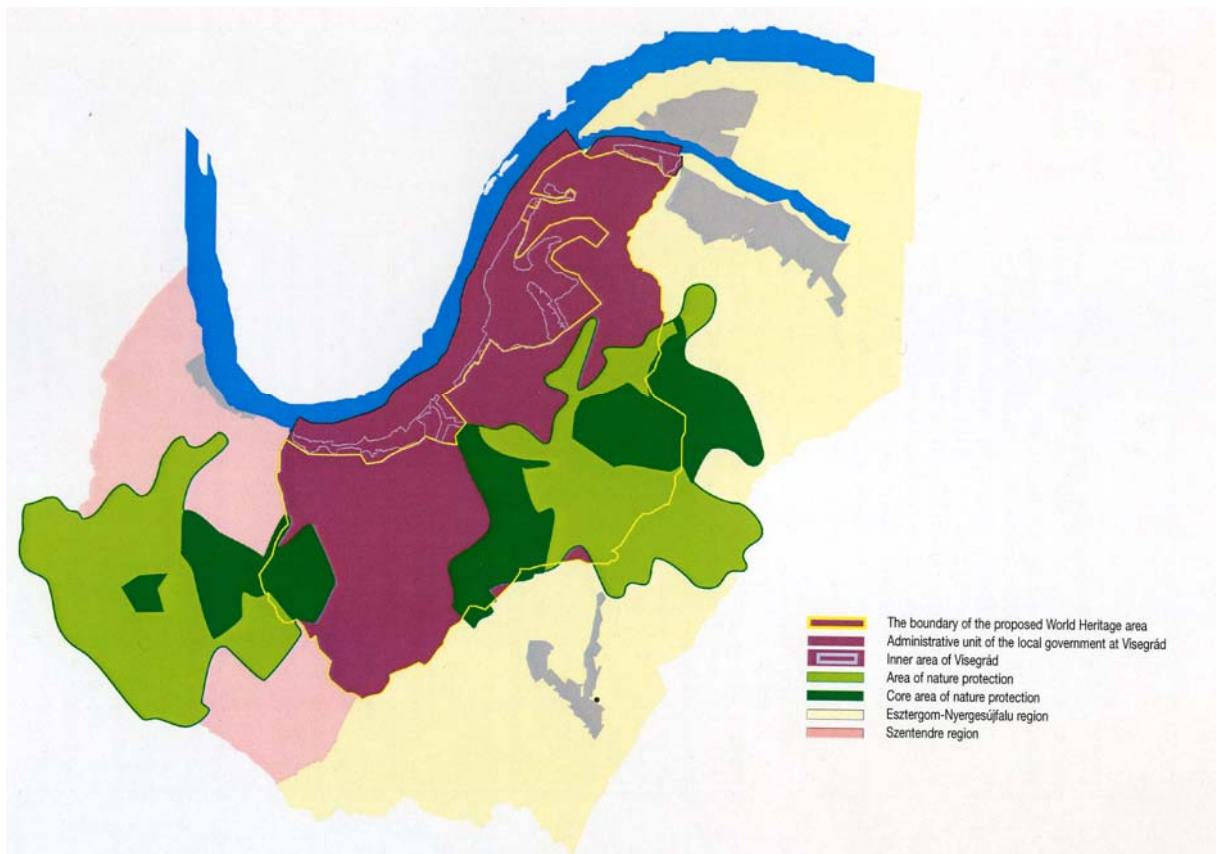
i. Háromszázgrádics

Rich cliff-vegetation.

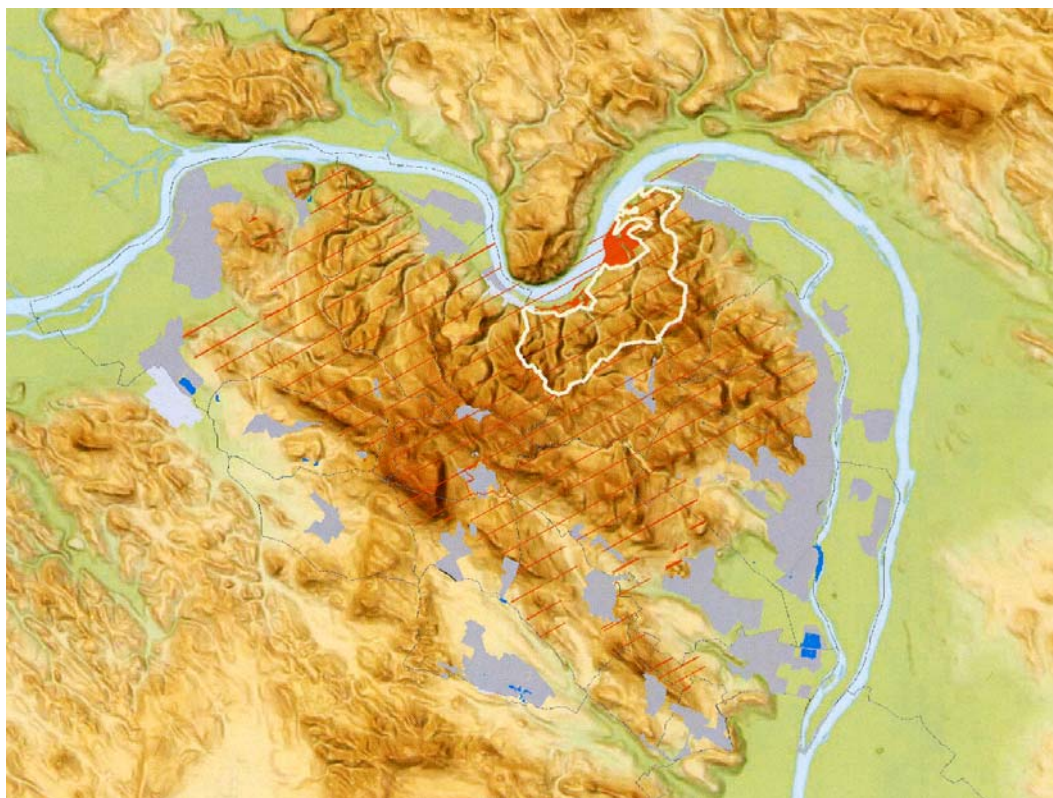
j. Kétágú-hegy

One of the last remains of loess vegetation.

In the recently established Forest-Reserve Programme of the Nature Conservation Authority of the Ministry for Environment, the buffer zone features two reserves: Pilis-peak and Prédikálószték, the latter of which has a common boundary with the core area of the proposed World Heritage site. Rare plants and animals in the region range from *Linum dolomiticum*, a small and fragile plant, which is not found anywhere else in the world, through *Ferula sadleriana* on top of Pilis-peak, which grows in altogether six places in Europe, to the more familiar *Pulsatilla grandis*, red and roe deer and wild swine.



The World Heritage core area



The World Heritage core area and buffer zone

3. Necessity of the Management Plan

It became obvious that the creation and operation of the Management Plan is a basic condition that:

- the realisation of the objectives of the World Heritage Convention could be continuously followed by the national and local communities
- it should be the basic document of realisation for those responsible
- through the continuity of planning, scheduling and financing, it could make the relics of the past an organic part of the present.

By publicising the cultural values in the widest circles by the assertion of economic and educational teaching aspects, the significance of disseminating values has an important social effect. This is why the Management Plan ensures the operation, the economic profitability, accessibility and authentic preservation and distribution of values in a complex form.

Acceptance to the list of World Heritage sites as a recognition of the unique heritage qualifications imposes further responsibilities on both the state and the local communities. It is a basic responsibility to preserve this value and hand it over intact to future generations. All the responsible actions that serve this purpose with an efficiency exceeding the previous from this, be it:

- long-term planning and research
- authentic reconstruction
- didactic introduction to increase cultural, natural and historical awareness
- adequate service for visitors both in the physical and spiritual sense
- and, for the realisation of these sections of objectives, ensuring the co-operation of those responsible: civil organisations, governmental organisations, owners, inhabitants and visitors.

4. Status of Existing Management Plans

The situation of management plans of the proposed site is complex, and has four main characters: the town of Visegrád, the local King Matthias Museum, the National Park, and the Pilis Parkforestry.

4.1. Town of Visegrád

The Management Plan of the town of Visegrád was issued on 30 of June, 2004. As all of the inner area of Visegrád is outside the proposed World Heritage site, this Plan has little direct relevance to the issue of World Heritage. It notes that existence of the monuments and the National Park, and imposes protection on their territories, but it does not go further than that, implying that managing these areas is the responsibility of the Museum, the National Park, and the Pilis Parkforestry.

4.2. King Matthias Museum

The King Matthias Museum is affiliated to the Hungarian National Museum. It is a partly independent unit, however, economically and financially the National Museum exercises control over it. At the moment, there is no territorial protection in the town of Visegrád, only single monuments are protected. This is not a problem for World Heritage: all the monuments proposed to be included are protected. A summary of the management activities of the Museum are as follows:

Plans for the reconstruction of the palace

On the basis of the plans for the museum construction, the whole area of the royal palace complex was purchased in the 1970s-80s, and the majority of the modern houses within the territory were demolished. After the completion of this project, the King Matthias Museum gave a new commission to the architects with a different concept. This new plan wished to present a didactic reconstruction by placing the exhibition rooms in the partially reconstructed north-east palace, while the offices, workshops, and storage rooms of the museum were to be located in the north-west palace that was to be preserved mainly in its nineteenth-century state. The National Committee for the Protection of Monuments refused to consider this plan. However, the excavations in the south-east palace that began in the meantime made the restoration of the ruins inevitable. To achieve this, János Sedlmayr worked out a plan for the reconstruction of the whole palace complex in 1991. His plan included a partial reconstruction of the west and south-east palaces and one of the Franciscan friary, as well as the protection of these parts by roofs. The service rooms of the museum would have been situated in the Franciscan friary, while the reconstructed rooms he proposed to use as exhibition rooms and tourist facilities. This plan did not involve the north-east palace and chapel at all. Later the architect designed a protecting roof over these buildings, too, but these were rejected by Committee for the Protection of Monuments. In the meantime, measures for conservation

were taken in the south-east palace, in the course of which three vaulted rooms on the ground floor were reconstructed after the plans of János Sedlmayr.

Excavations and research of the palace, 1983-2000

The scholarly study and publication of the excavations and finds were begun by Mátyás Szőke and his team of scholars. To support these studies, further excavations in the territory of the palace buildings and the adjoining Franciscan friary were carried out, which helped to specify for the first time the exact dimensions and the architectural history of the palace complex and its environs.

In 1983-84, after the dismantling of the modern houses on the site of south-west palace, preliminary excavations were executed, during which the layout of this late fifteenth-century building were more or less exactly determined. In 1985, there was a small-scale excavation in the inner courtyard of the north-east palace. The gatehouse of the palace was found at this time, but the entire area could not be excavated. Between 1984 and 1997, the north-west palace and the northern half of the lower reception courtyard was unearthed; then, from 1987 to 1991, the ground floor of the street wing, where the most significant find was a tile stove from the Matthias period that fell into the cellar. Connected to this project was the full excavation of the large closed balcony of the street facade in 1989, which yielded several new carved stone finds. In the last part of the work, the central section of the lower reception courtyard was excavated in 1992, then, between 1994 and 1997, the large stone house from the time of King Charles I under the courtyard, and, below it, the remains of the settlement from about 1300.

Archaeological investigation and reconstruction of the medieval garden of the royal palace

The archaeological research programme of Hungarian historical gardens began in 1993 at Visegrád, with the excavation of the fourteenth- and fifteenth-century royal palace garden. The reconstruction of this palace garden forms part of the reconstruction plans of monuments at Visegrád between 1996 and 2002. The research is co-ordinated by the Environmental Archaeological Group of the Hungarian Agricultural Museum.

The area under investigation is 50 x 70 metres. The excavations, from 1993 to 1996, were preceded by a geophysical survey. The methods used included pollen analysis, malacological, pedological and petrographic investigations. Such complex and multidisciplinary garden research has rarely been conducted before anywhere in Europe.

The reconstructed garden can serve multiple functions:

- Presentation of early humanist and Renaissance attitudes towards nature
- Presentation of the history of horticulture
- Recreation area for visitors
- Place for receptions, festive occasions
- Educational purposes: secondary and higher educational presentations

Future plans for the reconstruction of the palace

Further plans include, first of all, the completion of the reconstruction of the north-east residential palace. This will include the reconstruction of the bath, the bath courtyard, the garden of the Fountain of the Lions, the sacristy of the chapel and the bridge leading to it, and part of the sanctuary of the chapel. The landscaping of the gardens and terraces surrounding this palace will also be completed, and the main paths of traffic within the palace—including a full reconstruction of the grand steps leading up to the terrace of the chapel—will be restored. The garden and orchard of the palace together with all its structures—fountains, fences, garden house—is also planned to be restored. The architectural reconstruction will continue with that of the south-east palace, where the offices, library and archive, study rooms, restoration workshops and storage rooms of the museum will be located. The next phase will include the reconstruction of the north-west palace and the former large hall in it, and that of the west wing running parallel the Danube, together with its entrance tower and the Late Gothic closed balcony decorated with coats of arms. All these works involve the restoration of the late medieval floor levels by lowering the present ones.

An especially rewarding task of historical reconstruction will be that of the Franciscan friary to the south of the palace complex, from the cloister and chapter house of which a significant number of vaulting rib fragments have been preserved.

The Upper Castle

The only burning issue as far as monument-management is concerned is the Upper Castle. This very touristy location (with over 300,000 visitors yearly) is in a most peculiar situation. It is the *property* of the local forestry institution, the Pilis Parkforestry. It is clear to all those involved that this situation should change, however, they do not agree on the ideal solution. The Parkforestry would like to continue managing the Castle, which should be state-owned; while the Museum agrees about ownership but wishes to manage the Castle itself. In principle, there is much money involved: the Castle brings 150 million HUF a year from

entrance fees alone. If, to complicate the situation even more, the Castle went into the hands of the Museum, it would be subject to an Act of Parliament of 2004, which made state-owned museum free to enter. The museums must be compensated for their missing income by the Government. It is easy to see that, with this Act in place, the Government would certainly not want to give the Castle to the Museum.

4.3. Duna-Ipoly National Park

The Duna-Ipoly National Park was founded in 1997, incorporating the Pilis Nature Protection Area that had existed before. The whole World Heritage area in Visegrád (including the town) is part of the National Park, and is protected as such. This protection should be implemented through the Management Plan of the National Park. This, however, does not exist. It *should* by law, but under the current circumstances the National Park cannot produce it. As a temporary solution, the Management Plan of the Pilis Parkforestry applies to the region. It is, in fact, the Parkforestry that manages the area. To their Management Plan, to be described below, the Budapest Directorate for the Protection of Nature attached general comments, which are:

No area cut at one time shall exceed 10 ha.

The biodiversity of typical native zonal and extrazonal associations must be preserved. Best examples are Kesztölc 6A, 7A.

The degradation of woodland types must be monitored and reversed, with special attention to the abundance of ash and hornbeam.

Alder and sallow woods along rivers and streams must be maintained.

Woodland soil must be protected against erosion, especially on steep southern slopes and in disused quarries. Large machines must not have access to these regions (in general, traditional methods of transportation, that is, horses and carts, are to be preferred), and it is advisable to leave some cut trees lying on the ground. In some cases, such parts are within sections of favourable qualities: the former should be separated and treated as independent units. Typical examples are Visegrád 16A, Pilisszentkereszt 2C.

The diversity of tree species must be preserved; therefore elms, cherries, maples, limes, services, etc. are not to be cut.

Non-native tree species should be eliminated, mostly *Robinia pseudacacia*, *Ailanthus altissima*, and pines.

Ancient individual trees must be protected.

In order to protect birds of prey, whenever a tree with a larger nest is found, foresters must let the workers of the National Park know about it, so that the habitation of the nest and type of bird may be recorded.

The vegetation of meadows and cliffs must be protected. Whenever forestry work is to be conducted on them, the prior consent of the National Park is needed. 50 metres of woodland around them must be left untouched.

Hunting facilities must be developed in accordance with the regulations of the National Park.

Trees in gullies must not be cut, except for acacias. In order to entrap the gullies, a certain amount of wood cut in the neighbouring regions must be deposited in the gullies themselves.

In more strictly protected areas, any roadwork requires the prior consent of the National Park, since they may affect the natural conditions of the site. The same holds true for drainage works.

4.4. Pilis Parkforestry

The Management Plan of the Parkforestry is renewed every ten years. 2004 has been the third year of the present Plan, a very detailed document covering topics from history to game management. It contains:

- Documents of pertinent authorities

- Tables and statistics

- Data on area-sizes

- Data on habitats

- Data on conditions

- Data on planning

- Textual evaluation

- Appendix

There are some contradictions inherent in the situation. The Pilis Parkforestry is a state-owned limited company, which manages, but does not own the woods in Pilis. It must be stressed that at the moment the Parkforestry is a commercial enterprise partly aimed at producing profit from the woods, and is therefore engaged in commercial woodland management. Nature protection, although the National Park is a higher authority than the Parkforestry, is in a rather passive position. The National Park has to countersign every action that is planned by the foresters, but it cannot actively *make* the Parkforestry do anything.

The World Heritage Management Plan serves to enhance this situation. Although, unlike all other plans discussed so far, it has no statutory power other than the possible removing of the site from the World Heritage List if the Management Plan is disregarded, it is the first step towards the final aim: unified management of the *Medieval Royal Seat and Forest at Visegrád*.

5. Tourism

Visegrád is one of the most significant settlements in the Danube-Bend from the point of view of tourism, as the annual number of visitors approaches one million. This traffic is, however, of an excursion type, in other words there are relatively few opportunities for the tourists to spend money. The towns of Szentendre and Esztergom are also struggling with the same problem. Their main tourist attractions are historical monuments, nature, the proximity of Budapest, easy access, good infrastructure and a relatively wide range of tourism facilities. The Mogyoróhegy Excursion Centre serves to provide the people of the capital with a place of rest and relaxation in a natural environment with its ten hectares of well looked after green area with facilities for camping and picnicking, a small zoo, restaurants (Nagyvillám Restaurant, Mogyoróhegy Restaurant), with its Woodland House of Culture, sports facilities (summer bob-sleigh, minigolf, skiing), and with its woodland trails, which go all the way up to the Upper Castle. The number of visitors to the Upper Castle exceeds 300,000 people per year, and it should also be noted that half of them are from abroad.

Upper Castle

Number of visitors: 300,000 per year, maximum 5,000 per day

According to estimates, up to as many as 6-800,000 people visit Visegrád per month in the peak period, but the examination of the number of visitors to the Upper Castle provides a good basis for sensing the tourism load on the settlement and also provides justification for its season-extending developments. There are several exhibitions in the Upper Castle, a castle-history museum, waxworks, and horse-riding is possible in the courtyard, in addition to archery and falconry shows. In the car park next to the Upper Castle there is a row of shops offering folk art and other souvenirs. Visegrád's most significant hotel, Hotel Silvanus, built in the 1970s, is situated near the Upper Castle.

Thermal Baths

Further developing the Lepence Swimming Baths could provide the basis for Visegrád becoming a holiday resort. The Baths have nearly 100,000 visitors every year, and according to many, the complex has the most beautiful surroundings in the country, with a unique terraced setting on a wooded hillside. The Baths can accommodate up to 2400 people and contain a 33 m sport swimming pool suitable for competitions, a children's pool and three hot water pools.

Visegrád International Palace Games

The Visegrád International Palace Games have been bringing colour to the tourist programme offer of the Danube-Bend since 1985. They are held on the second weekend of every July among the ruins of the royal palace. On the basis of the decision of the Visegrád Local Government, the Mayor's Office has been organising them since 1991. Since 1993, external sponsors: for example the Hungarian Television have helped to develop the Games into a reliable, large-scale event. During the Games visitors can see a fourteenth-century tournament, infantry duelling, a castle siege, archery on foot and on horseback, military exercises, theatre and mime performances, medieval crafts; and they can enjoy the atmosphere of a fair and medieval music concerts.

All this is brought to life with nearly 300 foreign and Hungarian participants. One of the most popular parts of the event is worthy of a separate mention: the traditional strongest man competition, in which competitors measure their strength with millstone throwing and rod holding.

With the presentation of medieval crafts, the series of events leading up to the Palace Games regularly attract 16-20,000 visitors, and during the three-day Palace Games there are a further 50-70,000 people arriving to see the spectacle.

Main types of tourism that affect nature are:

a. One-day outing

The most significant type. Approximately 800,000 – 1,000,000 visitors a year.

b. Seasonal weekend trips

Mostly outside the Biosphere Reserve, within the transition zone. Approximately 200,000 visitors a year.

c. Hunting

In the designated hunting areas of Parkforestry and on the territories of hunting companies within the Biosphere Reserve, mostly for big game.

d. Camping

There are four campsites in the National Park, but just outside the transition zone there are more than twenty.

e. Camping together with education on the protection of nature

This operates in about twenty places. Courses last one week and take ten to fifteen students. The most significant site is the Nature and Wood Protection Camp in Visegrád.

f. Horse-riding

Horse-riding is forbidden in the buffer zone and in the core areas. It rarely functions alone, and normally comes together with other tourist activities.

g. Rock-climbing

Not very widespread in the National Park, since most of the suitable cliffs are protected.

h. Mountain-biking

A recent recreation activity, difficult to control; its effects are not yet known in detail, but definitely unwanted.

i. Hang-gliding

At Pilis-peak the take-off of sportsmen causes serious damage.

j. Observation of plants and animals

Most of it is carried out in special camps in designated areas.

k. Fishing

There are two fishponds. One of these, Kerektó, is protected: here the activity of fishermen must be controlled.

6. Indicators for Assessment of Management Objectives

1. Occurrence of foreign, invasive species

Property and buffer zone

This should be expressed in the number of species present, and with a distribution map showing how much of the area is affected by each plant. Animals (mostly mufions) could be included. A current list of plant species to be monitored can be found in a WWF report: Tamás Exner and Benedek Jávör, ed., *Erdőfigyelő jelentés 2003: A védett területek kezeléséről a WWF Magyarország felmérésének tükrében* (Woodland monitoring report 2003: On the management of protected areas in light of the survey of WWF Hungary), WWF füzetek 21 (Budapest: WWF Magyarország, 2003), 13.

2. State of Biosphere Reserve core areas and woodland reserves

Property and buffer zone

There are two UNESCO Biosphere core areas in the WH property: Apátkúti-bérc – Órhegy and Prédikálószték. Further eight core areas are in the buffer zone: Esztergom: Szamárhegy-Kerektó, Ábrahám-bükk – Vértes-hegy, Öregpaphegy, Feketekő, Pilis-tető, Cserepesvölgy – Árpádvár, Háromszázgrádics, Kétágú-hegy. Their state is, in theory, monitored within the MAB (Man and Biosphere) UNESCO programme, the results of which are expressed numerically.

The Woodland Reserve Programme has two reserves in Pilis. Both of them have just been listed as Biosphere Reserve core areas: Prédikálószték, and Pilis-tető. The separate monitoring system of the Woodland Reserve Programme offers an opportunity for independent control over the Biosphere Reserve monitoring.

These areas are not only good indicators as single important places, but, as vulnerable habitats, they also react quickly to any changes in the wider area.

3. Percentage of natural woodland as opposed to plantations

Property and buffer zone

It is a key issue in woodland conservation that local native trees are not replaced by plantations of either non-local (usually bred) native, or non-native trees. The replacement of trees should be left to natural means as much as possible in the given economic and forestry conditions.

4. Presence of rare, non-woodland plants

Property and buffer zone

To be expressed in number of species and distribution maps. The preservation of plant species specific to non-wooded environments in Pilis is dependent on the efforts of nature conservation, and is a good indicator of how much pressure the National Park can put on the Parkforestry, and therefore of the status of nature conservation versus economic forestry in general.

5. Numbers of deer

Property and buffer zone

To be expressed in numbers of all deer species present. The abundance of deer is among the biggest problem for woodland conservation all around the world. In Hungary, their proliferation is due mostly to the successful lobbying of hunting organisations (that is, because of the income they produce).

6. Changes in built heritage

Property

These cannot be grasped in numbers, but are a key issue at Visegrád. The restoration of monuments started more than a century ago, and today is an especially hot issue because of the rebuilding of the royal palace. The best solution would be a written report on what happened in this respect and how it was perceived by professionals and the wider public.

7. Ownership and management of upper castle

This indicator may seem more like a goal (that is, a slightly different goal for the Museum and the Parkforestry), however, the antecedents tell us that the story is unlikely to come to a generally accepted end in the near future. An independent observer should prepare reports on the issue.

8. Temporary exhibitions at Museum

To be expressed in numbers of exhibitions, visitors, and entrance fees. This is probably a temporary indicator, designed for the present situation of the Museum. As the permanent exhibitions of the Museum are free to enter, the only way to create income from visitors is to increase the number of temporary exhibitions. This indicator should be removed from the list if free entrance is abolished.

9. Excavations and research

Property

Excavations to be expressed in territory covered and working hours and money spent. It has to be accompanied by a written report from the Museum explaining the reasons for increases or decreases, and also summarising research carried out in the given period. Excavations are not continuous, but the Museum should be able to afford either excavations or the processing of the excavated material at any one time.

10. Budgets of pertinent institutions

To be expressed in numbers and categories. Changes in the scheme should be explained in a written form.

11. Number of staff in Museum, National Park, Parkforestry

12. Status of Parkforestry

Somewhat similar to the upper castle indicator, this promises to be an ongoing issue rather than a situation solved instantly. At the moment, the problem is expressed in terms of limited company versus budgetary agency, however, this may change again in the future, therefore a written report should summarise the situation.

13. Percentage of woodland managed by National Park

Property and buffer zone

It is now governmental policy that National Parks should manage as much of their territories as possible. Comparative research also shows that this would be an effective way to strengthen the position of nature conservation.

14. Visitor numbers

Property and buffer zone

To be expressed in numbers of visitors to Museum, Upper Castle, and National Park.