

The ladybells (*Adenophora liliifolia*) is a late representative of the last ice age



Photo: Zsófi Baranyai

ACTIONS OF THE TURJÁNVIDÉK LIFE+ PROJECT

WATER RETENTION AND STEERING

Through the construction of water management objects we stop further drying out of wetlands both actively and passively.

REMOVAL OF NON-INDIGENOUS PLANTS, PLANTATION OF INDIGENOUS SPECIES

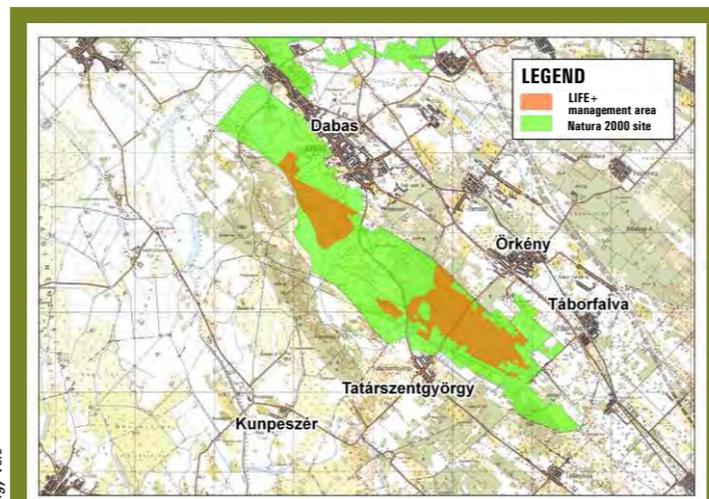
Invasive plant species will be removed mechanically and by using gentle chemicals, indigenous species will be planted in their stead where necessary with the aim of improving the natural value of habitats.

HABITAT RESTORATION

Through the acquisition of areas, the introduction of Hungarian grey cattle and the transformation of cropland and tree plantations into grasslands we aim to create suitable habitats for the Hungarian meadow viper and other valuable species.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

We cooperate with soldiers to successfully save the most important species of the shooting range during military operations. Great importance is given to the information of both laymen and experts, as well as to the monitoring of the results of habitat management actions.



Made by: György Verő

A large part of the Natura 2000 site is in military use. National defence may be beneficial to nature conservation.

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"TURJÁNVIDÉK" – THE HIDDEN TREASURE OF THE GREAT HUNGARIAN PLAIN

Photo: Bálint Halpern



LIFE-Nature programme to save the Turjánvidék

www.turjanvidek.hu

“TURJÁNVIDÉK” – THE HIDDEN TREASURE OF THE GREAT HUNGARIAN PLAIN

Pannonic sand steppes and juniper-poplar forests in Turjánvidék Natura 2000 area



Photo: Anamária Csikó

Due to the landscape transforming activities of man little is left of the original vegetation of the Great Hungarian Plain, which stands alone in Europe. “Turjános” is called a vegetation that is found on soggy, waterlogged areas that are difficult to walk through. Many species live here that only occur in the Carpathian Basin.

The Hungarian meadow viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*) is one of the most endangered vertebrate species in Hungary and Europe



Photo: Balint Halpern

The rare flat bark beetle (*Cucujus cinnaberinus*) lives under the bark of dry-rotten trees



Photo: Tamás Németh

The sand iris (*Iris arenaria*) is an endemic plant species



Photo: György Iard

The southern half of the Turjánvidék Natura 2000 area comprises two parts. One of them is the Dabas Turjános Nature Conservation Area that has been under national legal protection since 1965. The other one is Táborfalva Military Shooting Range and Training Area created in 1876. One of Hungary’s largest active military shooting ranges, it made a safe haven for exceptional natural values due to its inaccessibility.



Photo: Szász Völgy Természetvédelmi Egyesület

The strictly protected European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) builds its long underground hollow in sand steppes

HOW CAN WE SAVE THIS EXCEPTIONAL NATURAL TREASURE?

A five-year nature conservation programme has been launched with the aim of saving the southern part of Turjánvidék, home to a number of rare habitats and species. The project called “Conservation of priority natural values in Turjánvidék Natura 2000 area southern unit” is being implemented between 2011 and 2016, with the financial support of the LIFE+ program. The project is carried out in cooperation with the following organizations:

- Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate
- Ministry of Defence Armament and Quartermaster Office
- Ministry of Defence Budapest Forestry Company
- WWF Hungary

NATURA 2000 AND THE LIFE-NATURE PROGRAM



Protection to endangered species and habitats on the European level

In all countries of the European Union assessments were made on species and habitats of special importance, and the most valuable areas became part of the Natura 2000 network. The EU also provides financial resources for the preservation of natural values within the frames of the LIFE-Nature fund. Most of the Turjánvidék belongs to the Natura 2000 network, that is why we were able to apply for project funding.



A strictly protected species in Hungary: the great bustard (*Otis tarda*). Will we be able to save it?

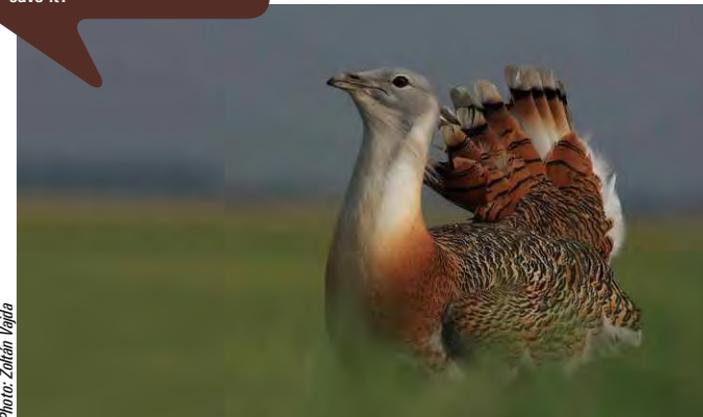


Photo: Zoltán Vajda

WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT THREATEN THE WILDLIFE OF THE TURJÁNVIDÉK?

DRYING OUT: Due to the decreasing amount of annual precipitation, the warming climate and artificial drainage, wetland habitats are gradually shrinking, and the species connected to wetlands are in decline.

INVASION BY NON-INDIGENOUS PLANT SPECIES: These aggressive species (most importantly black locust, tree of heaven, Russian olive, boxelder maple, common milkweed) wipe out a great part of the indigenous flora and transform the affected habitats into biologically poor areas.

INAPPROPRIATE GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT: Intensive mowing takes away the naturally variable structure of meadows, decreasing there the richness of species, also making conditions unsuitable for the Hungarian meadow viper.

LACK OF INFORMATION: If we are not aware of the existence of natural values, it is very difficult to save them. Too little knowledge may result in a number of illegal land use forms.