

EU Nature Restoration Regulation and the National Restoration Plan of Slovakia

10th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group
on Sustainable Forest Management

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MINISTRY
OF ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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- Key dates
- SK legislative procedure
- Duties of Nature Restoration Regulation
- Currently running processes aligned to preparation of the National restoration plan
- Seven indicators for forest ecosystems
- Uniform Format
- Measures related to forestry practices

Restoration Targets and Obligations

Chapter II of the NRR

Article 4 - Restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems

Article 5 - Restoration of marine ecosystems

Article 6 - Energy from renewable sources

Article 7 - National defence

Article 8 - Restoration of urban ecosystems

Article 9 - Restoration of the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of the related floodplains

Article 10 - Restoration of pollinator populations

Article 11 - Restoration of agricultural ecosystems

Article 12 - Restoration of forest ecosystems

Article 13 - Planting three billion additional trees

National Restoration Plan

Chapter III of the NRR

Article 14 Preparation of the national restoration plans

Article 15 Content of the national restoration plan

Chapter IV of the NRR

Article 20 Monitoring

Article 15 Reporting

Key dates

Effectiveness of the regulation

August 18, 2024

Deadline for the submission to the EK

September 01, 2026

Basic processes in SK

①

Preparation of the National restoration plan

December 31, 2025

②

**Amendment to the Act on Nature and
Landscape Protection**

December 31, 2025

(... and other legislative acts? E. g. on forests ...)

National restoration plan related ongoing processes

➤ **National forest inventory and monitoring -
3rd cycle 2025 - 2026**

➤ **Reporting** according to:

- Art. 12 of the Birds Directive and
- Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive

The deadline for submission of both national reports is
July 31, 2025

Competences for the Forests

Forest land: 2,03 mil. ha = 41% of Slovakia

Competencies for forests :

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Environment for 9 National parks **317 888 ha = 15,9% of forest land**

SK national legislative procedure

(a need to fulfil to prepare and submit the Nationale plan to EK)

- **Internal commenting procedure** (within the MoE and also organizations in the competency of the MoE = Slovak Environmental Agency, Slovak Environmental Agency, National parks)
- **External commenting procedure** – all other ministries and public
- **Strategic Environmental Assessment** (SEA)
- **Submission** of a proposal to the EK (Art. 17(1))
- Discussion with the EK
- **Submission to the Government** (final version)

Restoration of Forest Ecosystems

MS shall achieve an increasing trend at national level of at least **six out of seven of the following indicators** for forest ecosystems:

- (a) standing deadwood;
 - (b) lying deadwood;
 - (c) share of forests with uneven-aged structure;
 - (d) forest connectivity;
 - (e) stock of organic carbon;
 - (f) share of forests dominated by native tree species;
 - (g) tree species diversity
- + **forest bird index**

Methodology for determining and monitoring of the indicators – Annex VI

FOREST EUROPE 2020

- (a) standing deadwood
- (b) lying deadwood
- (c) share of forests with uneven-aged structure
- (f) share of forests dominated by native tree species
- (g) tree species diversity

FAO - State of the World's Forests

- (d) forest connectivity

Annex V to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999

- (e) stock of organic carbon (carbon stocks)

Brlík et al. Common forest birds index (A

Restoration of Forest Ecosystems

The trend shall be measured in the **period** from 18 August 2024 until 31 December 2030, and every six years thereafter, **until the satisfactory levels** as set in accordance with Article 14(5) **are reached**:

- 4. The non-fulfilment** of the obligations set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 is **justified if** caused by:
- (a) **large-scale force majeure**, including natural disasters, in particular unplanned and uncontrolled wildfire; or
 - (b) unavoidable habitat transformations which are directly caused **by climate change**.

Article 14 Content of the Uniform Format

A: Summary data, approach to preparation, financing in total

B: 9 articles of the regulation

- current state of habitats
- total area of habitats subject to restoration/improvement
- maps of restoration sites
- management measures

C: measures and their financing (optional, related to specific measures)

Uniform format for forest ecosystems - Part B

12. Forest ecosystems (Art.12)

12.1 National approach and contextual information

12.1.1 National approach

12.1.2 Information on indicators at national level for FE

12.1.2.1 Selected forest indicators

12.1.2.2 Account of the indicators for FE

12.1.2.3 Baseline levels of the selected indicators

12.1.3 Satisfactory levels at the national level

12.2 Targeted restoration plan for 2030, 2040 and 2050

The measures relevant for this target have to be filled in
Part C

Uniform format for forest ecosystems – Part C

12.1 **Enhancement of biodiversity** in forest ecosystems

12.2 **Increase** in the common forest bird index

12.3.a **Increase** in the indicator “standing deadwood”

12.3.b **Increase** in the indicator “lying deadwood”

12.3.c **Increase** in the indicator “share of forests with uneven-aged structure”

12.3.d **Increase** in the indicator “forest connectivity”

12.3.e **Increase** in the indicator “stock of organic carbon”

12.3.f **Increase** in the indicator “share of forests dominated by native tree species”

12.3.g **Increase** in the indicator “tree species diversity”

Article 12(1)
Restoration of Forest Ecosystems

MS shall put in place **the restoration measures necessary to enhance biodiversity of forest ecosystems**, in addition to the areas that are subject to restoration measures under Article **4(1), (4) and (7)**, while taking into account the risks of forest fires.

Article 4(1)

Restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems

MS shall

- put in place the restoration measures that are necessary **to improve to good condition areas of habitat types listed in Annex I which are not in good condition.** Such restoration measures shall be put in place:
 - by 2030 on at least 30 % of the total area of all habitat types listed in Annex I that is not in good condition, as quantified in the national restoration plan,
 - 2040 – 60% / 2050 – 90%.
- until 2030 give priority to restoration measures in areas that are located in Natura 2000 sites.

Measures in Forests

M code (NRR)	CM code (HD)	KTM code (WFD)	MSFD code	Measure name	Description
	MB04			Adapt/manage reforestation and forest regeneration	Adapting or managing reforestation and forest regeneration, to restore habitats and habitats of species including for example the conversion of clear-fell plantations to long-term native woodland, conversion of forest stands from non-native species to native species, increase of native species composition in canopy and understory, promote uneven age structure in forests, or the adaptation of reforestation techniques such as using natural regeneration or fire. This includes the reinforcement of herbivore populations and trophic rewilding.
	MB05			Adapt/change forest management and exploitation practices	Adapting or changing forest management and exploitation practices to preserve or to restore habitats/habitats of species targeted by the nature directives, or to increase standing and lying deadwood, organic carbon stocks, uneven-aged structure and avoid species disturbance. This can involve reducing forest harvesting, adapting and changing management practices in order to secure or develop old stocks of trees, to maintain coppices, to retain standing and lying deadwood and stumps, to favour opening of closed woodlands, actively creating old-growth features on trees, to preserve or restore habitat continuity, to manage species composition, to prevent forest wildfires; but also adapting the time and duration of forestry activities to avoid disturbance of species. However, this excludes the management of drainage and irrigation, which are included under MB14.
	MB06			Stop forest management and exploitation practices	Stopping (or avoiding) forest management and exploitation practices, e.g. to promote forests with high nature conservation value (old growth forests, high proportion of dead wood, organic carbon stocks, etc.), to preserve or to restore the habitats or the quality of habitats of species targeted by the nature directives, or to avoid species disturbance. Includes the application of non-intervention management.

Measures related to forestry practices **based on Habitat directive**

- Prevent conversion of (semi-) natural habitats into forests and of (semi-) natural forests into intensive forest plantation
- Maintain existing traditional or extensive forest management and exploitation practices
- Reinstate traditional or extensive forest management and exploitation practices
- Adapt/manage reforestation and forest regeneration
- Adapt/change forest management and exploitation practices
- Stop forest management and exploitation practices

Measures related to forestry practices based on Habitat directive

- Re-establishment of Annex I and other forest habitats
- Controlled burning of forests for nature restoration
- Manage drainage and water abstraction in forests for nature restoration (inc. restoration of drained or hydrologically altered habitats)
- Other measures related to forestry practices and forest-related habitats

Measures related to forestry practices based on HD & Water Framework Directive

- Measures to prevent or control the input of pollution from forestry
- Reduce air pollution from forestry activities
- Reduce other types of pollution from forestry activities (such as noise and soil pollution)
- Manage the use of natural and synthetic fertilisers, liming and pest control in forestry
- Reduce diffuse or point source pollution to surface or ground waters (incl. marine) from forestry activities

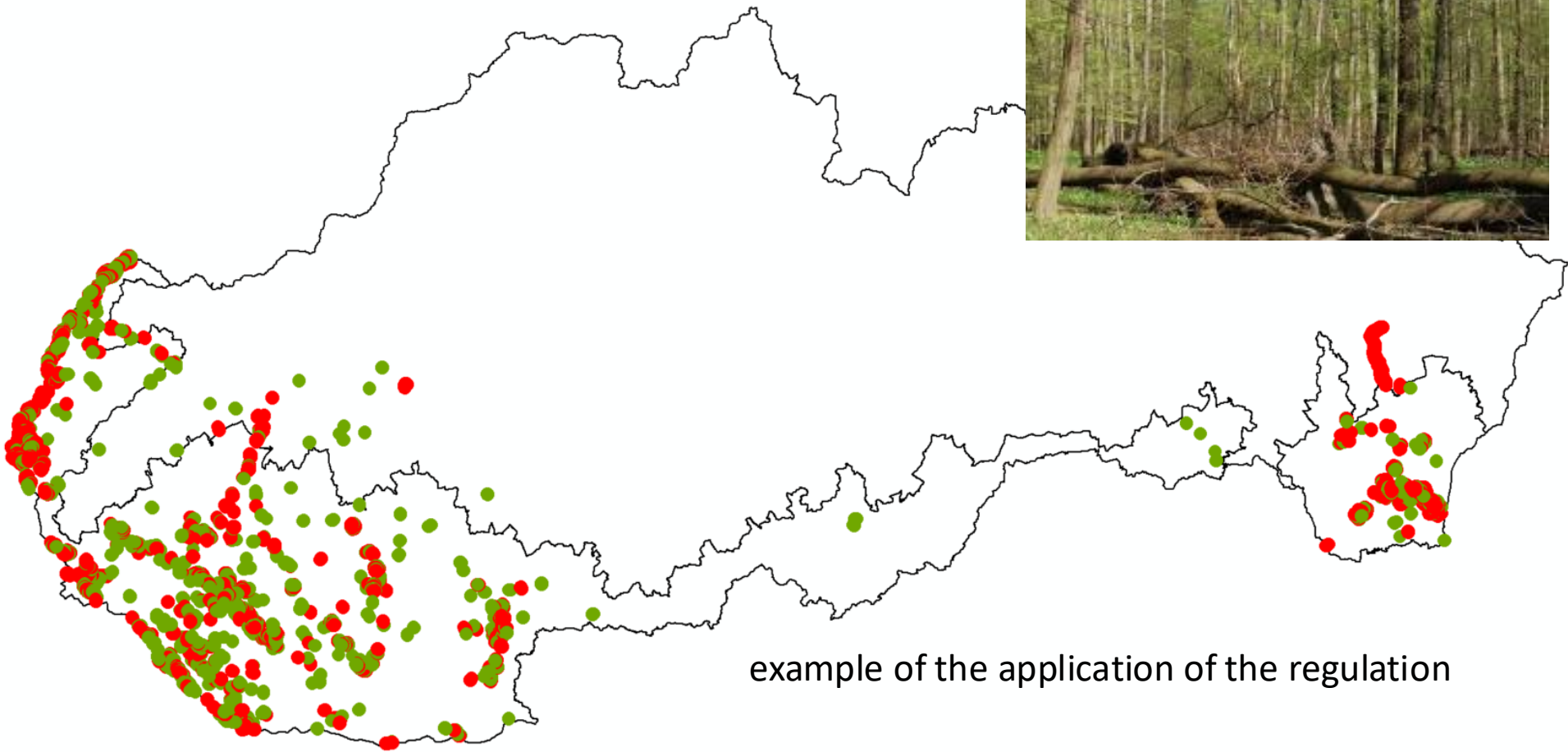
Measures related to forestry practices **based on NRR**

- **Re-establishment of other (not forest) habitats**

Description:

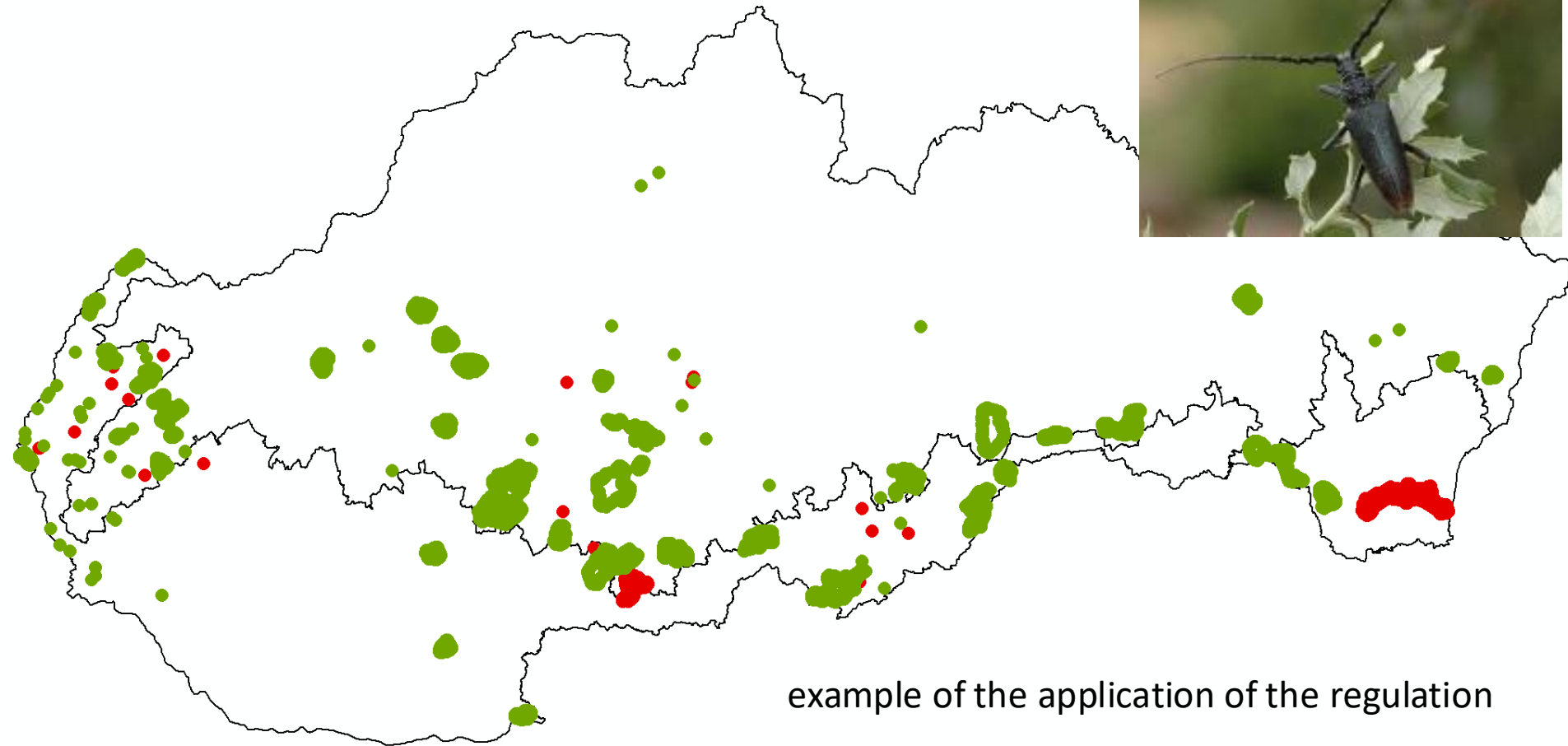
Land previously used for forestry (e.g. plantations) being (re)established as habitat other than Annex I forest habitat type, for example as grassland.

Riparian mixed forests of *Quercus robur*, *Ulmus laevis* and *Ulmus minor*, *Fraxinus excelsior* or *Fraxinus angustifolia*, along the great rivers (Ulmenion minoris) (91F0) – ALP/PAN – U1/U2



example of the application of the regulation

Cerambyx cerdo – ALP/PAN – U1/U2

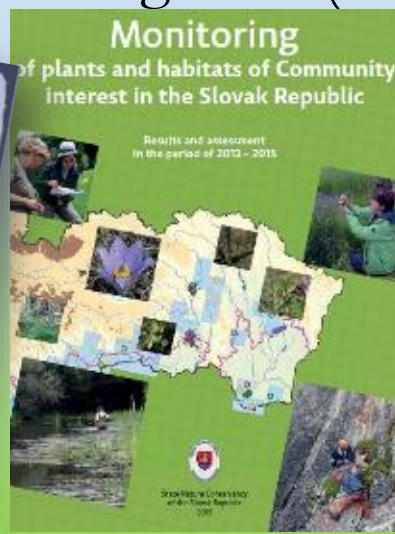
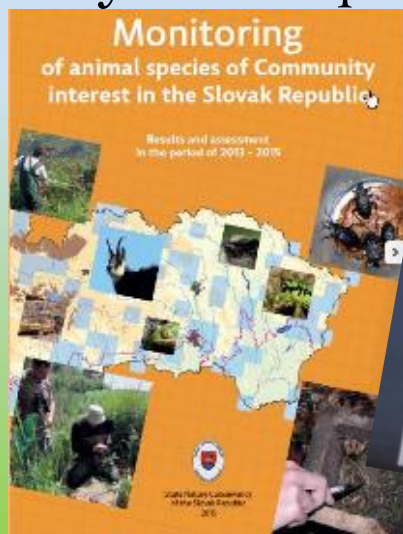


example of the application of the regulation



Monitoring of habitats and species of European importance (since 2013 for fulfilling Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and from 2023 also for Article 12 of the Birds Directive)

- 66 types of habitats,
- 146 species of animals,
- 49 species of plants,
- 236 species of birds
- system of permanent monitoring sites (PMS)





Thank you for your attention!