

Slovakia

Slovenský Kras

Declaration date: 1977

Surface area: 74,500 ha

Administrative division: Administration of the Slovak Karst protected Landscape Area, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, they report to the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Human activities:

About 47,900 people live in the transition area of the biosphere reserve (1997). Settlements and related economic activities are concentrated in the basins and river valleys. Forests are mostly coppice stands, derived from repeatedly cut broad-leaved trees, and forest plantations. There are also grasslands and pastures as well as some agricultural areas. The region has an industrial-rural character with more people employed in agriculture than industry (exploitation and processing of raw materials, machinery and metal industry). Research in the area has a long history. While there have been studies on the stratigraphy, geomorphology and regional physical geography of the Slovak Karst over many decades, systematic environmental research began only with its designation as biosphere reserve.

Ecological characteristics:

Situated adjacent to Aggtelek Biosphere Reserve in Hungary, Slovensky Kras in the south of Slovakia is a karst landscape comprising almost the complete range of the karst phenomena of temperate climates. A series of plateaus, ranging between 400 and 900 meters above sea level, are surrounded by steep slopes descending to adjacent basins, valleys and gorges. More than 700 caves are currently recognized in the 60,000 hectares karst area, which is shared with Hungary. In 1995, 'Caves of Aggtelek and Slovak Karst' were designated as a World Heritage site.

Carpathian oak-hornbeam forests characterized by *Carpinus betulus*, *Quercus petraea*; mixed oak forests dominated by *Q. petraea*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Fraxinus excelsior* etc.; xero-thermophilous oak forests with *Cornus mas*, *Q. petraea*, *Q. cerris*, *Cerasus mahaleb*; beech forests with *Fagus sylvatica*, *Acer platanoides*, *A.pseudoplatanus* and *Tilia cordata*; shrub layer with *Cornus mas*, *Acer campestre*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rosa canina*, *Ligustrum vulgare*, *Cerasus mahaleb*, *Sorbus aria*, *S.torminalis* etc.; limestone rock walls and rock cracks with *Asplenium trichomanes*, *A. viride*, *Moehringia muscosa* etc.; grasslands; grass meadows; underground brooks and lakes, caves, caverns and chasms; fields with *Adonis aestivalis*, *Anagallis foemina* and *Caulis platycarpus*; orchards and vineyards.



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* Details found on this information sheet are derived directly from the UNESCO website and are not a communication from the biosphere reserve.