

## **EKOFESTIVAL NITRA 2018**

**June 14-17, 2018**  
**Agrokomplex, Nitra, Slovakia**

*The purpose of the event is to share the latest, scientifically and practice-proven methods of modern nature conservation, to establish interdisciplinary (scientists, state and non-governmental conservationists) and international cooperation and, in particular, an attempt to unify the (perhaps unnecessarily) fragmented opinions of the conservation community in order to create and coordinate a common stream that will protect our nature even more effectively than before.*

**Thursday and Friday (June 14–16) It focuses on field trips as an example of good practice** in Western Slovakia and the Southern Moravia which will take place in the morning and in the afternoon. We expect, in particular, the participation of officials of state nature protection, scientists, and professional conservationists and to lesser extent amateur conservationists, teachers, students and so on.

**In the late afternoon and in the evening (Thu, Fri), specialist conferences divided into several sessions will be held in Nitra.**

**On Thursday evening, a pre-prepared foundation for challenges and tasks regarding nature protection should be outlined.** There will be an opportunity to discuss these challenges informally (on the bus, during excursions) during morning excursions. On Friday evening, **we should take up commonly agreed challenges and tasks.**

**In addition to the Ekofestival itself (see [www.ekofestival.sk](http://www.ekofestival.sk)), Saturday 15 June will be partially devoted to Nature Conservation Forum**, in which we should seek to resolve issues from the previous days. On the main stage of the festival, **a series of lectures intended particularly for the general public will take place too.** The evening will end with a night nature-science excursion to Zobor (Lupka nature reserve) also particularly intended for the general public.

The event will finish on Sunday by a daily excursion to Zobor (for the general public) and to Záhorie regional military training area (particularly for professionals registered in advance).

The tasks and the resolution not concluded will be dealt with on the next year's conference that should continue by rotation throughout the states of Central Europe. At the same time, the Ekofestival with conferences focused on other topics closely related to nature and environmental conservation (agriculture, protection of water and so on) should continue in Nitra every year.

## CONTENT

CONFERENCE

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## CONFERENCE

### International conference

#### Nature Conservation in Practice

***This high-level international conference on conservation features major excursions in the field, all organized and supervised by leading conservation experts from several Central European countries, in addition to a rich accompanying program to be presented at the opening of Ekofestival Slovakia, a festival for national conservation protection authorities, non-governmental conservation organizations, environmental friendly businesses and the general public***

**June 14-17, 2018**

*Agrokomplex, Nitra, Slovakia*

#### **zoological and botanical excursions**

focused on active protection of the showcases of nature in Western Slovakia and both the Southern and the Northern Moravia: unique blossoming sands of the Záhorie region - a critically endangered biotope of Europe, the most well-known Slovak and Moravian salt marshes, first "private corporate reserves" in the Czech Republic - bird meadows in Kozmice Opava region, exemplary secondary forests of Pannonia, amazing rock steppes in Považský Inovec, wetlands and iconic Danube steppes and forest-steppes in Ponitrie.

### **An event no conservationist from any part of Central Europe can miss ;) Why?**

**Although there is a large number of conferences, this one will be exceptional in its own way because it has been designed by leading experts from several countries to ideally and instantly present cutting-edge conservation methods and best practices.** Far from being just an exchange of practical experiences in actively protecting nature in some Central European countries. It is also about improving the work

with the public, inspiring innovative approaches and especially establishing a joint coordinating and a close, win-win cooperation of progressive wing of scientists, conservationists, state conservationists, but also companies, schools and educational facilities, rescue station for wild animals, and possibly even zoological gardens. **One of the milestones is the effort to adopt the final challenges, roadmaps, and distribution of specific tasks in the nature protection area - namely, for example in the following areas:**

- "Alternative" management methods, mainly natural grazing of the indigenous herbivores, burning, disturbance, scientifically managed repatriation, creating and maintaining of zoo trees, renewal of post-industrial territories not as an alternative for nature protection but as a modern standard.
- Support for the plan of the Central European Danube Delta tetra-lateral national park.
- No intervention in national parks, or on the contrary, to let a part of them burn and then allow bison, wild horses and aurochs to graze there?
- To loosen rules for the protection of invertebrates that are too strict, counterproductive and tailored to individual creatures, while directing attention toward protecting entire populations and habitats.
- Calling for an adjustment in agricultural subsidies to not destroy soil, water and biodiversity and to stop subsidizing afforestation of barren land.
- Calling for the promotion of effective ways to retain water in rural areas - not trying to build more dams (an obsolete method of water retention) in an effort to revitalize landscape water systems and to demolish existing dams (a modern water retention method practiced rurally).
- Calling for greater pressure for progressive restriction of pesticides and their replacement by environmental, cost-effective protection methods employing natural products anyone would use.
- Calling for greater emphasis to be placed on combating climate change caused by direct landscape interference by returning basic "cooling" elements such as water, rather than just seeking to reduce greenhouse gases.
- Calling for better use of selected subsidies and for less pointless bureaucracy.
- Calling for a common reform of nature conservation in Central Europe, from the top floor to the toilet.
- Calling for an environmentally friendly lifestyle that does not destroy the natural resources of the tropics (conventional palm oil, soy, bananas, cocoa, fish and seafood, plastics, chemicals,...).
- Calling for a stop to the destructive effects of the Nagoya Protocol on both science and practical conservation.
- Calling for the use of modern means to work with the public so "ordinary people" finally begin to understand us properly and comprehend our concerns.

**Challenges not discussed and approved at this conference due to the shortage of time will be dealt with at other conferences which should build on this opening conference. Any other possible date and also the venue for the conference will be resolved together.**

**At the same time: first international Ekofestival in Slovakia ([www.ekofestival.sk](http://www.ekofestival.sk)).**

The conference focuses on examples of good conservation practices in the field which is an ideal time for science excursions. The morning and afternoon will include visits to selected nature reserves where an adequate maintenance corresponding to modern conservation methods has been ensured. The evenings will be dedicated not only to conservation theory but also to practical tools necessary for work of a progressive conservationist. There will be informal discussions in the corridors during the night.

Natural pastures for large ungulates such as wild Exmoor ponies, European bison and auroch-like cattle currently being bred as well as for Hungarian Grey cattle, domesticated water buffalo, "ancient" sheep and goat breeds, and Przewalski's horses; controlled burns and pyres for burning; environmental non-intervention as opposed to interventions; using excavators and bulldozers for environmental intervention; driving tanks and other tracked or wheeled infantry fighting vehicles; pastures managed for tourists; creating and maintaining zoo trees; modern methods for raising environmental awareness; zoo geocaching; extinct species repatriation projects, population reinforcement and targeted rescues; wild animal rescue and rehabilitation; modern awareness-raising and public relation methods; negotiation skills with both opponents and proponents; reforms in national nature conservation ranging from the main articles to WC reform across individual countries; the Central European Danube Delta tetra-lateral national park; nature conservation in the tropics and much more.

Simultaneous interpretation from and to English provided by [Memsources](#) - Translation

## **Who are the international conference's main organizers?**

### **Main Coordinator:**

***David Číp**, longtime chairman of the Czech Nature Conservation Union - Jaroměř (JARO), founder of JARO, an action conservation group JARO, head of the Injured Animals Rescue Station in Jaroměř and head of the Velké Jaroměřsko Land Trust.*

A trained forester, but mainly a professional environmentalist, coordinator and implementer of a wide range of projects for active nature conservation in the Czech Republic and abroad, he is an expert on active temperate zone nature care and also assists in conservation of tropical regions. Číp handles basic operation of almost all JARO Jaroměř projects and expansion of Velké Jaroměřsko into other new territories, especially administrative and professional aspect; deploys human resources; communicates with landowners and users, donors, officials and politicians; and is involved in promotion and public awareness while working closely with the media. He lectures at kindergartens, primary schools, grammar schools, universities and before the widest possible audience at various events he (co-)organizes. He is a zoologist (specializing in birds, amphibians, reptiles, diurnal butterflies, dragonflies and partially on nocturnal moths) and an amateur botanist. Číp is likewise an amateur photographer, travels and breeds livestock, wild animals and earlier also exotic

vertebrates. He has popularized nature conservation and yet is a practical person who can dress up in a suit to negotiate with premiers and government ministers and shortly afterwards change his dress shoes to wellingtons to drive an excavator, tractor or bulldozer, or to cut a meadow with a normal scythe. He is the founder of charity e-shop PomahamPrirode.cz, coming up with the idea and consequently co-founding the Czech branch of Palm Oil Watch International and other non-governmental organizations such as the Czech Nature Conservation Union branches for Morava, Pardubice and Podještědí, Pražský Pásienok (Prague Pastureland) and others. In short, he is a typical, ordinary conservationist.

**Major Co-organizers:**

***Mgr. Pavol Littera, PhD***, Vice President of the Bratislava Regional Conservation Association (BROZ) and an expert involved in various nature conservation projects

He studied Environmental Science at Comenius University in Bratislava, where he lectures within the scope of the subject Landscape and biodiversity. The subject of the lectures and his personal interest are landscape biodiversity, traditional forms of management and their support and management of non-forest habitats. He is professionally engaged in restoring habitats of salt marshes, drifting sands and xerotherm especially in southern Slovakia. On Danubeland he conducted mapping of willows.

***RNDr. Dipl. Ing. Karel Černý***, expert witness in the field of entomology and ecology in Innsbruck, Austria

He graduated from the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague-Suchbát and after immigrating to Austria studied biology in Innsbruck and spent 27 years in charge of conservation in Innsbruck, focusing on ecology, zoology, botany, environmentally friendly site supervision, landscape planning and more. He has long been a member of the Tyrolean State Museum Ferdinandeum, Czech Society for Entomology, and the Butterfly Conservation Society. Černý is a lepidopterist specializing in the taxonomy, zoology and ecology of tiger moths in Europe, Asia, and Indo-Australia. He has studied butterflies and moths in Austria, Czech Republic and Asia for many years. The results of his work have been used to provide appropriate protection for the rarest populations. He is quite helpful in securing contacts in Austria as, among other things, he is also a sworn translator in Czech and sometimes Slovak.

***Dr. Ing. Karolina Olszanowska-Kuńka***, professional conservationist in Poland

She graduated from forestry with the heart of a naturalist. She is professionally involved in the protection of nature (specialization in natural reserves) and the issue of invasive plant species. Mountain and forest lover. She is a member of Palm Oil Watch International, leads "I do not buy palm oil" campaign on social networks. Organizer of the first day without palm oil in Poland. She supports the idea of setting up the National Park Turnicki that would

protect fragments of the Carpathian forest in Przemyskie Foothills, that are preserved in their natural state. She participates in the protection of xerothermic grasslands Gipsowe Góry on the Polish-Czech border.

***Mgr. Lukáš Čížek PhD***, researcher at the Institute of Entomology, Czech Academy of Sciences in České Budějovice

He earned his degree in entomology at the Department of Biology, University of South Bohemia. He currently focuses on forest and insect ecology and biodiversity protection at the Institute of Entomology in the Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Čížek is a professional scientist and entomologist researching the biology and ecology of temperate zone invertebrates (especially beetles), while also in the Far East and in the tropics. He has written a large number of scientific papers published in several well-known journals (for his impressive bibliography, see <https://www.lib.cas.cz/arl/bibliografie/asep/bc-a/1103982>) and also numerous ground-breaking popular scientific articles decisively contributing toward how nature conservation looks today (not only) in the Czech Republic.

***RNDr. Roman Slobodník, PhD***, project coordinator at Raptor Protection of Slovakia

He comes from the Upper Nitra (born in Bojnice). He studied at the University of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Department of Conservation and Land Use). Slobodník endowed the interest in ornithology, actively involving along with his father since 1995, especially in the Upper Nitra (wetlands around the village Koš), occasionally in the Turiec Basin (Kláštorské meadows) and Danubian Lowland (meadows Ostrovné Lúky SPA). Since 2003, participates actively in bird banding, focusing mainly on passerines, waders, occasionally piciformes, birds of prey and owls. He is the author and co-author of more than 60 professional articles. His favorite species are *Lanius collurio*, *Ficedula albicollis*, *Hirundo rustica*, *Regulus regulus*, *Prunella modularis* and from birds of prey *Falco vespertinus* and *Falco tinnunculus*.

***Ing. Jerguš Tesák***, postgraduate student of Faculty of Natural Sciences, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, who is involved in Civil society Prales and WWF Slovakia conservation projects

***RNDr. Mojmír Vlašín***, ecologist and project manager at Veronica Ecological Institute in Brno.

Vlašín graduated from the Faculty of Science, Masaryk University with a degree in biology. Before, he worked in the Czech Institute of Nature Conservation as deputy director. He also worked for a short period as an expert editor at Czech Television. In Brno, he teaches biodiversity conservation as an adjunct at the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University. He has also gave lectures on environmental protection as an adjunct at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. He is a court expert in the field of nature protection. He

represents Veronica in the international CEEWEB network. He is a member of the Czech Committee for Ramsar Convent. Vlašín is an active member of numerous non-governmental environmental and scientific organizations such as the [Veronica Ecological Institute](#), [Czech Ornithological Society](#), [Czech Bat Conservation Society](#), [Pálava Advisory Board](#) and [Natural Areas Association](#). He is also a co-founder of the [Czech-Nepali Society](#). In addition, he is on the editorial board of [Sedmá Generace \(Seventh Generation\)](#). Vlašín has also hosted *Hra na zelenou*, a children's environmental game show presented on [Czech Television](#). His research activities focus on protecting [bats](#), [amphibians](#) and [reptiles](#). He is also involved in preventive environmental protection, writing with Aleš Máchal in the early [1990s](#) *Desatero domáci ekologie* (The Ten Commandments of Home Ecology). Today the book is quite well-known and provides anyone with voluntary and preventive options for environmental protection.

**Mgr. Matúš Durček**, specialist at State Nature Conservation Organization SR (ŠOP SR) - management of the White Carpathians PLA

Hydrogeology graduate, who in addition to protecting the inorganic nature skillfully handles brush cutters, organizes camps and weekend brigades, negotiates with the owners or writes texts and articles on conservation.

**RNDr. Blanka Mikátová**, zoologist with the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic's regional center

She is a "general" zoology graduate, later specializing in animal science and researching the biology and conservation of reptiles, amphibians, bats, birds, butterflies and other invertebrate species. She is the author of numerous publications and research papers on the practical aspects of reptile and amphibian conservation, while having promoted for decades "alternatives" for nature conservation which should, however, become a standard in this field. She has studied animal biology over a number of long-term stays in tropical countries, mostly in South America. Both her many years of experience and profound knowledge on the complex issue of nature conservation has allowed her to make exceptionally sensitive decisions on best nature conservation practice, making her an eternal source of practical advice which is relative to nature conservation. She draws upon this advice with her colleagues, who often turn to her, sure that any approval of their solutions or her own suggestions can in no way be insensitive or wrong.

**RNDr. Katarína Rajcová**, botanist of PLA White Carpathians administration, coordinator of conservation projects

**Mgr. Břeněk Michálek**, chairman of the Czech Nature Conservation Union Smiřice, member of the board for the East Bohemian Czech Ornithological Society, professional administrator at the Czech Ornithological Society's Josefovské Louky Bird Park and long-term project manager at the Czech Nature Conservation Union Jaroměř (JARO).

He was awarded a zoology degree and currently specializes in bats, birds, amphibians and reptiles, studying them from the perspective of conservation in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and many other tropical and subtropical countries where he has stayed for longer periods of time, such as Australia, New Zealand, India, Vietnam and China). He is an administrator and project manager at the Czech Republic's first ever private bird sanctuary, Josefovské Louky Bird Park. In addition, he speaks fantastically about environmental education, sparking interest among students of all ages in nature conservation. An enthusiastic proponent of active nature conservation, he is experienced in sustainably maintaining grasslands using different tools ranging from scythes to a single-axle mowers, while also pasturing herds of sheep, goats, and wild horses. Part of his nature conservation includes driving heavy machinery and caring for injured wild animals. In brief, he is a one-of-a-kind, multitalented environmentalist.

**Mgr. Monika Sofková**, UKF Ph.D. student in the field of Environmental protection and land use, specializes in the problems of invasive plants

**Mgr. Robert Tropek, Ph.D.**, zoologist at the Department of Ecology, Faculty of Science at Charles University in Prague and Institute of Entomology BC ASCR in České Budějovice

A graduate professional zoologist and ecologist, who is a lecturer at the Faculty of Science at Charles University and the head of the Laboratory of Ecology communities in the Institute of Entomology Biology Center ASCR. Alongside the ecology of communities in temperate and tropical ecosystems, his main focus is on the research of conservation potential and ecological restoration of post-industrial sites and the impact of inconsistent approaches in conservation biodiversity in different groups of invertebrates. He conducts the research mainly in the Czech Republic and Cameroon, and has experience from Switzerland and from various, mainly tropical countries.

**Mgr. Zuzana Čistoňová**, UKF Ph.D. student in the field of Environmental protection and land use, specializes in the problems of invasive plants

**Richard Ulianko**, national coordinator of Palm Oil Watch International Coalition for Slovakia and chairman of ESORG Slovakia

He is an amateur diver, experienced traveler and nature enthusiast with great organizational skills that help him bring together environmentalists across different organizations. Moderator of internet radio, where he is a director of his own sessions on environmental protection.



**Scientific and conservation council conference (about 70% will attend the conference in person):**

- **Jiří Beneš** (main coordinator of butterfly mapping in the CR, entomologist)
- **RNDr. Dipl. Ing. Karel Černý** (expert witness in the field of entomology and ecology)
- **David Číp** (President of the Czech Union of Nature Conservation JARO Jaroměř, professional conservationist, general zoologist)
- **Mgr. Zuzana Čistoňová** (Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Department of Environmental protection and land use, botanist)
- **Mgr. Lukáš Čížek, Ph.D.** (committee member of the Czech Entomological Society, entomologist)
- **Mgr. Kateřina Holubová** (Palm Oil Watch International Coalition, coordinator of global Greenpeace campaigns, Kukang and Zátoka nosatých opíc projects, zoologist)
- **Mgr. Alice Janečková** (operating manager of rescue station for wounded wildlife Jaroměř, committee member CUNC JARO Jaroměř, general zoologist)
- **Mgr. Filip Jetmar** (biology teacher at the grammar school in Litomyšl, committee member of CUNC Rybák Svitavy, ornithologist)
- **Mgr. Miloslav Jirků, Ph.D.** (parasitologist in Biology Center of the Academy of Sciences in CR, zoologist specialized on parasites, large ungulates and coprophages)
- **doc. Mgr. Martin Konvička, Ph.D.** (Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice and the Institute of Entomology, Academy of Sciences, entomologist)
- **Mgr. Stanislav Lhota, Ph.D.** (Zoo Ústí nad Labem, scientist, primatologist and general zoologist)
- **Mgr. Pavol Littera, Ph.D.** (Vice President of the Bratislava Regional Conservation Association and an expert involved in various nature conservation projects, botanist)
- **Mgr. Filip Lysák** (professional conservationist, a specialist in the provision of management work in the Czech Republic, botanist)
- **RNDr. Zdeněk Faltýnek Fric, Ph. D.**, (Institute of Entomology, Academy of Sciences CR in České Budějovice, entomologist)
- **Mgr. Olga Mařáčková** (lecturer of environmental education)
- **Mgr. Břeněk Michálek** (President of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation Smiřice, administrator at the Czech Ornithological Society's Josefovské Louky Bird Park, professional conservationist, general zoologist)
- **Miroslav Mikát** (department of Natural Sciences, East Bohemian Museum in Hradec Králové, board member of East Bohemia Czech Ornithological Society's branch, entomologist)
- **RNDr. Blanka Mikátová** (zoologist at the regional center Nature Conservation Agency, general zoologist)
- **RNDr. Bohuslav Mocek** (department of Natural Sciences, East Bohemian Museum in Hradec Králové, board member of East Bohemia Czech Ornithological Society's branch, entomologist)
- **Dr. Ing. Karolina Olszanowska-Kuňka** (professional conservationist)

- **RNDr. Romana Prausová, Ph.D.** (Department of Biology, University of Hradec Králové, botanist)
- **RNDr. Klára Řehouňková, Ph.D.** (Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, botanist)
- **Mgr. Ondřej Sedláček, Ph.D.** (Department of Ecology, Faculty of Science at Charles University in Prague, ornithologist and entomologist)
- **RNDr. Roman Slobodník, Ph.D.** (project coordinator at non-governmental organization Raptor Protection of Slovakia, ornithologist)
- **Mgr. Monika Sofková** (Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Department of Environmental Protection and Land Use, botanist)
- **RNDr. Lukáš Spitzer, Ph.D.** (Deputy Director of Wallachian Museum, entomologist)
- **Ing. Drahomír Stano** (long-time Director of PLA Administration in the White Carpathians, now a member of the management of Pre Přírodu and Matica Ovocná civil societies)
- **Mgr. Filip Šálek** (President of Lužánek Association, professional conservationist)
- **Mgr. Petr Šrámek** (Member of the Czech Bat Conservation Trust - CESON, curator of birds and reptiles at Zoo Brno, general zoologist)
- **Prof. Dr. David Storch, Ph.D.** (Department of Ecology, Faculty of Science at Charles University in Prague and the Faculty of Science of South Bohemia University in České Budějovice, macroecologist and evolutionary ecologist)
- **Ing. Jerguš Tesák** (Faculty of Natural Sciences, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, he is involved in Prales civil society and WWF Slovakia conservation projects)
- **doc. Mgr. Lubomír Tichý, Ph. D.** (Department of Botany and Zoology at Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno, Chairman of CUNC Land Trust Hády, botanist)
- **RNDr. Robert Tropek, Ph.D.** (Department of Ecology, Faculty of Science at Charles University in Prague and the Faculty of Science of South Bohemia University in České Budějovice, entomologist)
- **Mgr. Mojmír Vlašín** (Veronica Ecological Institute, Masaryk University in Brno, herpetologist)
- **Ing. Otakar Závalský** (Bartošovice Rescue Station - CUNC Nový Jičín, ornithologist)

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## **NATURE CONSERVATION EXCURSIONS**

### **Confirmed schedule of science and conservation excursions:**

#### **Western Slovakia**

Tematínska Forest Steppe and Kňazí Hill in Považský Inovec  
Beckov Mountains in Považie (Váh River Valley)  
Kamenín Salt Marsh in Pohronie (Hron River Valley)

Čenkov Steppe in the Danube region  
Active military training area in the Záhorie region  
Veľký Lel Island in the Danube region  
Zobor in Ponitrie

**South Moravia**

Pannonian forests, forest-steppes and steppes in Pálava  
Slanisko and Nesyt ponds in Lednice Ponds National Reserve

**North Moravia**

Kozmické bird meadows

**Preliminary Program**

*(participants must register in advance!)*

**Thursday, 14 June 2018**

**10:00 to 11:30 AM:** Best practice at Beckov Mountains Nature Reserve (reclaimed pastureland, fallow land created to encourage arable weeds, managed intervention to encourage orchids and butterflies), science excursion with White Carpathians PLA staff

Alternative program in the Czech Republic if not enough people sign up for the excursion:

**10:00 to 11:30 AM:** Best practice and facing obstacles still to be overcome at Pálava PLA - the first part of the excursion is to Slanisko u Nesytu National Nature Reserve and the exposed bottom of Nesyt Pond at Lednice Ponds National Nature Reserve, science excursion with Pálava PLA administrative staff

**12:30 to 3:30 PM:** Best practice at Tematín Steppe National Nature Reserve (disposal of self-seedings and planting of black pine and manna ash, interventions to support local biodiversity), science excursion with employees of the White Carpathians PLA

Alternative program in the Czech Republic if not enough people sign up for the excursion:

**12:30 to 2:30 PM:** Second part of the excursion at Pálava PLA in the forests and steppes at the Devín, Kotel and Tiesňava national nature reserves (removing invasive woad, thinning, steppe management), science excursion with Pálava PLA administrative staff

**Friday, 15 June 2018**

**9:30 to 12:00** administrative procedures on salt marsh near the village Tvrdošovce (**SPA Dolné Považie**), visit of the salt marsh and adjacent poplar grove - historical **roost of Red-footed Falcon** - with the demonstration of management measures (installation of booths, tree planting, protecting and supporting rookeries etc.). The natural excursion of workers of RAC, SNC and BROZ.

**10:00 to 11:30:** Best practice at **Kamenín Salt Marsh PLA**, where the salt marshes are almost miraculously thriving thanks to local conservation interventions, mostly renewal of pastureland and the water system, science excursion with BROZ staff

**12:30 to 1:30:** Best practice at **Čenkov Steppe National Nature Reserve**, science excursion with BROZ staff

**2:00 to 3:30:** Best practice at **VeľkýLel Island**, science excursion with BROZ staff

### **Saturday, 16 June 2018**

**20.00.** - ?? Night Exkursion - **NPR Zoborská lesostep**

### **Sunday, 17 June 2018**

**10:00 AM to 12:00 noon:** science excursion to Zobor Steppe National Nature Reserve led by Ponitrie PLA employees

**11:00 AM to 2:30 PM:** best practice in the Záhorie regional military training area, science excursion with BROZ staff

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## **PAPERS**

***First certified materials for daily and evening scheduled events to be taking place simultaneously at several halls on Thursday, Friday and Saturday based on the number of individual blocks (there is no guarantee that any confirmed presentations will not be cancelled, but they are presently agreed as follows):***

### **David Číp, Czech Nature Conservation Union - Jaroměř (JARO) (CZ)**

20 years of experience with progressive nature conservation methods in Slovakia - driving tanks, off-road and motocross for nature conservation, zoo trees - veteranization of woody plants to support rare xylophagous insects, controlled burns, pastures for sheep, goats, donkeys and horses, "pastures" for tourists", zoo geocaching, bulldozers and excavators for conserving nature, maintaining alpine grass above the upper reaches of forests.

Mgr. Pavol Littera, PhD (SK)

### **Kamenín Salt Marsh - results achieved from protecting Slovakia's most valuable salt marshes and planned activities**

RNDr. Dipl. Ing. Karel Černý, Tyrolean State Museum Ferdinandeum (AT)  
**Protecting butterflies in Austria - progress or still much to do?**

Mgr. Břeněk Michálek (CZ)

**Josefovské Louky Bird Park - a privately owned reserve providing people with nature and nature with people; how the Czech Republic's first bird park was established and whether everything has (or has not) been achieved.**

Ervín Hapl, Citizen Association Živá Planina (SK)

**Practical conservation of the European ground squirrel at Muránska Planina National Park**

Mgr. Lukáš Čížek PhD, Institute of Entomology, Czech Academy of Sciences, České Budějovice (CZ)

**The Moravian Amazon is more vulnerable than its South American counterpart - will Central European Danube Delta contribute toward active protection of it and why protect lowland forests without intervention?**

Jakub Cívik, Pre Přírodu (SK)

**Practical conservation of Mountain Apollo butterflies in the White Carpathians**

Mgr. Dalibor Dostál, Česká krajina - Czech countryside (CZ)

**Natural pastures for bisons, bison-like cattle that are currently being bread and wild horses - the most environmentally friendly and economical method of caring for a natural forest-free area not just in the reservation of wild horses (Motýlia rezervácia) at the former Milovice - Mladá military area**

Pavel Skala, Pražská Pastvina and Třesina Association (SK)

**Repatriating rare butterfly species in the Czech Republic**

Mgr. Matthew Kovac, SON - Slovak Bat Conservation Society (SK)

**Practical conservation of bats in urban environments**

Marie Slabejová, SEMIX PLUSO s.r.o. (CZ)

**First corporate reserve in the Czech Republic**

Ing. Kate Béreseová, Slovak Environmental Agency (SK)

**Protecting birds in SPA Ostrovné Lúky (LIFE)**

Mgr. Lubomír Tichý, Ph. D. Land Trust Hády (CZ)

**Pasture of llamas, alpacas and winter harvest - unusual, but the more effective ways of farming in the country with respect to promoting biodiversity.**

RNDr. Zdeněk Faltýnek Fric, Ph. D., Institute of Entomology, Academy of Sciences in České Budějovice (CZ)

**Will the Nagoya Protocol destroy the nature conservation research?**

RNDr. Mojmir Vlašín, Veronica Ecological Institute (CZ)

Mgr. Blanka Mikátová, Nature Conservation Agency (CZ)

**Practical conservation and research into Aesculapian snakes at Podyjí National Park and the White Carpathians PLA**

Vojtěch Košťář, Pražská Pastvina a Prázdné Pozemky (CZ)

**Community sheep and goat pastures to conserve nature in Prague and how the Prázdné Pozemky (Empty Lands) initiative relates to biodiversity protection**

David Číp, Jaroměř Wild Animal Rescue Station (CZ)

**Why we need (and don't need) rescue centers for wild animals?**

Mgr. Lukáš Čížek PhD, Institute of Entomology, Czech Academy of Sciences, České Budějovice (CZ)

**Would you like to conserve nature? Teach children to collect insects!  
From persecuting collectors to truly protecting biodiversity**

RNDr. Mojmir Vlašín, Veronica Ecological Institute (CZ)

**Natural Gardens - an Austrian model not just used in the Czech Republic**

Ing. Roman Hamerský, MSc., Central Bohemian Mountains PLA (CZ)

**Life + in the Central Bohemian Mountains - experiences and recommendations based on conservation in practice**

Ing. Otakar Závalský, Bartošovice Rescue Station, Czech Nature Conservation Union - Nový Jičín (CZ)

**The golden eagle returns to the Czech Republic**

Mgr. Filip Lysák, Specialist in the provision of the work of management in the Slovak Republic (CZ)

**Practical experience of revitalization of peatlands and wetlands in the Highlands using heavy machinery**

Ing. Jan Moravec, Deputy of the director of Czech Nature Conservation Union Office and coordinator of the national program to support land associations and campaign Place for Nature (CZ)

**Land associations and campaign location for nature - practical experience that brought time**

Mgr. Lucia Deutschová (SK): Kings of the sky - when your job is your hobby

**lecture on RPS, so NGO, Raptor Protection in Slovakia in the past and today**

Mgr. Tomáš Veselovský PhD., Jozef Chavko, Ing. Zuzana Guziová (SK): Monitoring Imperial Eagles in Slovakia

**lecture on the current population of the Imperial Eagle**

Mgr. Roman Slobodník, PhD., Jozef Chavko (SK): Red-footed Falcon - a great return?!

**lecture on the historical development and current population of Red-footed Falcon**

RNDr. Marek Gális PhD., Ing. Ján Šmídt, Ing. Ervín Hapl, Mgr. Lucia Deutschová (SK)

**Birds vs. power lines - facts and solutions**

*First papers to be presented during the day and in the evening on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (participation still not confirmed definitely):*

Ing. Drahomír Stano, Pre Přírodu and Matica Ovocná (SK)

**Practical conservation of rare butterflies in the White Carpathians PLA**

Mgr. Ondřej Sedláček, PhD, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague (CZ)

**First legal burn of heaths located in Brdy**

Mgr. Adrián Czernák, Czech Nature Conservation Union - Levrekův Island (CZ)

**How we are conserving nature in Poland**

Ing. Eva Belanová, Cerová Vrchovina PLA (SK)

**Practical conservation of botanical locations, wins and obstacles yet to be overcome**

Mgr. Jaromir Maštera, Wetlands: Protecting and Managing Them (CZ)

**How to create shade not just for amphibians**

Ing. William Jurek - Nature Section Head, Rezekvítek (CZ)

**Reclaiming land disturbed by mining - from theory to practice**

Vojtěch Košťíř, Pražská Pastvina a Prázdné Pozemky (CZ)

**Community sheep and goat pastures to conserve nature in Prague and how the Prázdné Pozemky (Empty Lands) initiative relates to biodiversity protection**

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## FOR VISITORS

Main motto of the conference:

***"This is a conference for everyone who likes nature and is willing to participate in conserving it. Although the conference will be as we make it, nevertheless it will be great."***

An online registration form will soon be available for conference attendees to officially register for it. (Participants also have to preregister for accompanying excursions.) However, attendees can already email abstracts of their papers and posters devoted to practical aspects of nature conservation and environmental protection to [david.cip@jarojaromer.cz](mailto:david.cip@jarojaromer.cz). The organizers reserve the right to reject all inappropriate

papers and posters. Should there be any substantive criticism, proposals, or remarks on your side, please send them to the above mentioned e-mail address or, better still, call +420 603 847 189 (7 days a week, approx. 9:30 AM to midnight).

The conference attendance fee depends on further negotiations with conference partners and sponsors concerning funding and the number of pre-registered participants. However, already at this point it is obvious that high discounts (up to 100%) will be offered to participants from non-governmental organizations. Attendees can choose among different accommodations ranging from staying in their own tent at an ecological campsite (no charge) in Agrokomplex Nitra to standard and premium accommodations provided by various facilities in Nitra.

**The conference is closely connected with Ekofestival (a fair of environmentally-friendly companies and the first-ever environmental organization festival, visit [www.ekofestival.sk](http://www.ekofestival.sk)). Registration for Ekofestival is already open: <https://www.ekofestival.sk/inPage/registracia-vystavovatelov/>**

***We are looking forward to seeing you at this incredible event!***

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## ORGANIZERS

### **Chief Organizer:**

**ESORG Slovakia**

### **Major Co-organizers:**

Palm Oil Watch International, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland

National Nature Conservancy (SK) - in negotiations

Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (CZ)

Agrokomplex Nitra (SK)

Czech Nature Conservation Union - Jaroměř (JARO) and the JARO direct action environmental protection group (CZ)

Bratislava Regional Conservation Association - BROZ (SK)

For Nature (Pre prírodu) (SK)

Raptor Protection of Slovakia (SK)

Alliance of the Responsible (Aliancia zodpovedných) (CZ)

Memsource - Translation Environment (SK)

[SEMIX PLUSO s.r.o.](#) (CZ)

Wild Forest Citizen Association (OZ Prales) (SK)

Czech Nature Conservation Union Czech Republic (CZ)

WWF - World Wide Fund Slovakia (SK)



Slovak Ornithological Society (SK) and Czech Ornithological Society (CZ) - Birdlife International (in negotiations)

### **Others Involved Early:**

#### **Non-governmental Organizations:**

Living Plateau Citizen Association (OZ Živá planina) (SK)  
SON - Slovak Bat Conservation Society (SK)  
Brezová pod Bradlom Wild Animal Rescue Station (SK)  
Prague Pastureland (Pražská pastvina) (CZ)  
Czech Landscape (Česká krajina) (CZ)  
Czech Nature Conservation Union - Moravia (Český svaz ochránců přírody Morava) (CZ)  
Arion Olomouc (CZ)  
SOM - Society for the Protection of Butterflies (SK)  
Hády Land Trust (ZO ČZOP Pozemkový spolek Hády) (CZ)  
Huslík Wild Animal Eco-Center and Rescue Station (CZ)  
Třesina (CZ)  
East Bohemian branch of the Czech Ornithological Society (CZ)  
Czech Nature Conservation Union - Podještědí (CZ)  
Czech Nature Conservation Union - Smiřice (CZ)  
Bartošovice Rescue Station - Czech Nature Conservation Union - Nový Jičín (CZ)  
ČSOP - Czech Nature Conservationists Union Pardubice (CZ)  
Naturschutzbund Austria (AT) - in negotiations  
Rezekvítek (CZ) - in negotiations  
Lanius (AT) - in negotiations

#### **Institutions:**

Veronica Ecological Institute (CZ)  
Institute of Entomology, Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic, České Budějovice (CZ)  
Slovak Environmental Agency (SK) - in negotiations  
DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology (SK) - in negotiations  
South Bohemian University in České Budějovice (CZ) - in negotiations  
Charles University in Prague (CZ) - in negotiations  
Slovak Academy of Sciences (SK) - in negotiations  
Constantine the Philosopher University Nitra (SK) - in negotiations

#### **National Nature Conversation:**

White Carpathians Protected Landscape Area (SK)  
Pálava Protected Landscape Area (CZ)  
Central Bohemian Highlands Protected Landscape Area (CZ)  
Nitra Valley Protected Landscape Area (SK)  
Záhorie Protected Landscape Area (SK)  
Dunajské Luhy Protected Landscape Area (SK)  
Cerová Vrchovina Protected Landscape Area (SK) - in negotiations  
Slovak Karst National Park (SK) - in negotiations  
Muránska Planina National Park (SK) - in negotiations

Veľká Fatra National Park (SK) - in negotiations  
Slovak Paradise National Park (SK) - in negotiations

Private companies actively conserving nature:

SEMIX PLUSO s.r.o. (CZ)

Other partners:

Avifauna (CZ)

Radio Expres (SK)

RSTV (SK)

RegioJet (CZ) - in negotiations