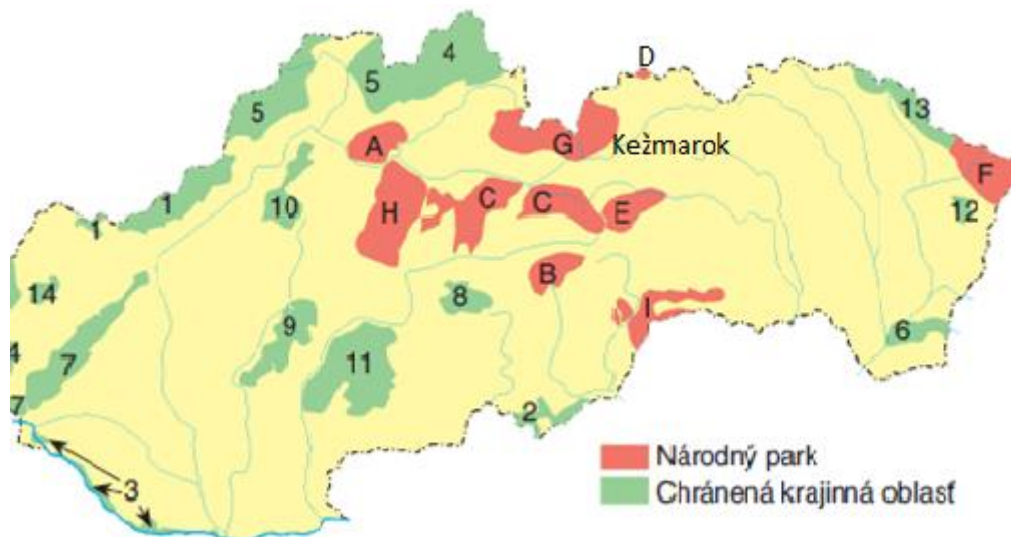


Nature protection - Slovakia's national parks

The need for the creation of national parks is related to the technical progress of mankind, as a result of which not only plant and animal species on Earth disappear, but also the number and variety of shapes of the earth's surface. The interest of the society of every country is to preserve nature as a source of sustainable development of life on Earth. Since 2003, a new law on nature and landscape protection has been in effect in Slovakia. The legal protection of nature and the landscape means the definition of the area of the territory with the principles of protection of rare flora and fauna, as well as the limitation of interventions that may threaten, damage or destroy the conditions and forms of life, natural heritage, the appearance of the landscape, reduce ecological stability, as well as the elimination of consequences such interventions. The geographical location of Kežmarok, where our Elementary school with Holy Cross Kindergarten /Základná škola s materskou školou sv. Kríža/ is located near the interface of of four national parks: Tatra National Park, Low Tatras National Park, Pieniny National Park and Slovak Paradise. Also for this reason, the residents of our locality have a strong relationship with nature and its protection.



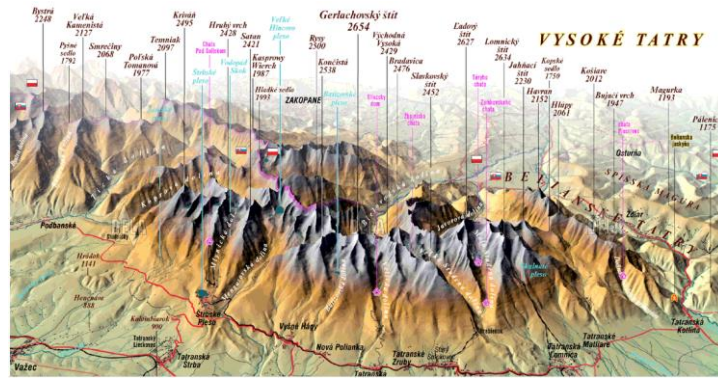
National park

Protected landscape area

In Slovakia, large-scale protected areas include 14 protected landscape areas (PLA) and 9 national parks (NP).

- A Malá Fatra National Park**
- B Muránska Planina National Park**
- C Low Tatras National Park**
- D Pieniny National Park**
- E Slovak Paradise National Park**
- F Poloniny National Park**
- G Tatra National Park**
- H Veľká Fatra National Park**
- I Slovak Karst National Park**

Tatra National Park



The Tatra National Park was declared by SNR Act No. 11/1949 Coll. on Tatra National Park dated December 18, 1948. Tatra National Park is the oldest national park in Slovakia. It consists of the highest mountain group in the Carpathian arc with the highest peak – Gerlachovský štít (2655 m above sea level). Tatra National Park is adjacent to the Polish Tatrzański Park narodowym in the north, with which it forms a bilateral cross-border protected area. The beauty of Tatra nature and its priceless value was the reason for the inclusion of the territory of the national park in 1993 by UNESCO's decision in the network of biosphere reserves within the MaB (Man and Biosphere) program. The Tatra National Park is also included in the NATURA 2000 system. The territory of TANAP includes the territory of European importance SKUEV0307 Tatras and the protected bird area CHVU030 Tatras. The goal of the NATURA 2000 system is to maintain or improve the favorable status of rare and endangered species of plants, animals and natural types of habitats and thereby preserve biodiversity on the territory of the EU states.

Slovak Paradise National Park



Slovak Paradise National Park located in the eastern part of Slovakia protects one of the largest ice caves in the world and an attractive landscape of karst plains, gorges, waterfalls and caves. There are also remarkable monuments documenting the oldest history of the settlement of Spiš and the whole of Slovakia. Slovak Paradise National Park is one of the youngest national parks in Slovakia. One of the largest ice caves in Europe - the Dobšinská ice cave - is also subject to protection. On the territory of the Slovak Paradise, we can find many narrow canyons and deep ravines with waterfalls, which must be climbed using numerous ladders and footbridges. The great natural wealth of the national park is predominantly a spruce forest covering up to 90% of its area. Thanks to the mineral-rich limestone base, the local flora is characterized by a high variety. Vertebrates are represented by 200 species, including bear, lynx, wolf and deer, roe deer and wild boar animals. Several species of birds of prey and songbirds nest in the rocks.

Pieniny National Park (PIENAP)



The Pieniny National Park (PIENAP) is the smallest in terms of area, but it does not lag behind the others in terms of its beauty. It is the second oldest park and is located on the border with Poland. The Dunajec River flows through it, along which you can sail on rafts and view the beautiful scenery of the national park. The territory of the Pieniny Mountains was declared a national park in 1967, but already in 1932 the breakthrough valley of the Dunajec with the adjacent forests was declared the Slovak Nature Reserve in the Pieniny Mountains. Together with the Polish Pieniński Park Narodowy, it was part of the first international park in Europe. Pieniny National Park (PIENAP).

PIENAP is rich in rare plant species, among which there are many endemics, for example the Zawadzky rabbit, the Pieniny dandelion, the crested Arabian and the Siberian mountain rebrica. The varied fauna includes 766 species of butterflies, 99 species of molluscs and over 200 species of vertebrates. On the cliffs and forest trails, you can meet the lynx, and in the waters of the Dunajec river otter can be seen hunting.

Low Tatras National Park (NAPANT)



The Low Tatras National Park (NAPANT) is the largest Slovak national park, spread across central Slovakia. Its biggest attraction is numerous karst phenomena with several caves. The natural values of the Low Tatras have been under the protection of the Low Tatras National Park for more than two decades, which was declared in 1978. Today, NAPANT's own territory has an area of 728 km² and a protective zone of 1,102 km², making it the largest national park in Slovakia. The national park is characterized by long valleys, deep canyons and steep precipices, in the upper part knee timber and grass sticks predominate,

despite this, forest stands prevail in the NP, spruce forests dominate below the knee timber, and mixed forests with fir, beech, spruce, larch and maple below. The biggest wealth of the park is several caves, the most famous of which is the complex of Demänovské caves. There is a strong population of our big beasts such as bear, lynx and wolf, there are also high Tatra chamois and mountain marmot.

Muránska planina



Muránska planina is one of the most preserved areas in Slovakia. There are many caves and chasms, more than 50 sinkholes and seeps and other karst phenomena, such as scarp, karst pits, gorges, precipices, etc., are registered in the territory. The flora of the national park ranks among the most interesting among the other orographic units of Slovakia.

Poloniny National Park



Poloniny are located on the Slovak-Polish-Ukrainian border and are immediately adjacent to the Polish Bieszczadzski Park Narodowy and the Ukrainian Užanski National Natural Park. The mountain complex in which the national park was declared is known under the name Bukovské vrchy. In 1993, Poloniny National Park was included in the network of international biosphere reserves by UNESCO. In June 2007, the Stužica, Havešová and Rožok primeval forests in the Bukovské vrchy, along with the Vihorlatský primeval forest in the Vihorlatské vrchy in the PLA Vihorlat and primeval forests in Ukraine were added to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List. The exceptionality of the territory lies in the occurrence of the largest complexes of native beech-fir forests in Europe, which in some places pass into primeval forests, and in an extraordinary concentration of rare and endangered species of plants and animals. The territory of Polonín is characterized by the presence of large beasts - brown bear, wolf, lynx and wild cat. The mountain bison also lives here, which is only found in the wild in Slovakia in this national park. Poloniny is also known as the Dark Sky Park, for which it was declared on the occasion of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 as the first dark sky area in Slovakia.

Malá Fatra National Park



Malá Fatra National Park is located in the westernmost Slovak high mountain range. Among its greatest attractions are gorges, gorges, rocky peaks, as well as a tourist-attractive ridge. The main object of protection is the territory with a varied geological structure and distinctly distinct diverse forms of relief, a wealth of biocenoses, rare flora and fauna, exceptional landscape value of forest and mountain complexes. Here, in particular, rhododendron groves, rare plants (Clusiaceae heather, Alpine fireweed) and predatory animals such as wolf, lynx and bear are protected.

Veľká Fatra National Park



Veľká Fatra National Park, located in central Slovakia, is characterized by continuous forests, long valleys and the largest site of original occurrence of the yew coniferous tree in Europe. The basic natural values of Veľká Fatra lie in the fact that it is a vast mountain area with a rugged surface, a rich occurrence of karst phenomena, with continuous forests, with an extensive and typical wooded area, long valleys, colorful flora and fauna, and the largest site of the original occurrence of common yew in Europe.

Slovak Karst National Park



The national park was founded on February 13, 2002, previously it was protected as a protected landscape area since 1973. It is the first Slovak biosphere reserve since March 1, 1977, when it was included in the UNESCO program - Man and the Biosphere. In addition to a number of invertebrate species, all our animals (bear, wolf, lynx, fox, wild cat, badger) live in the Slovak Karst National Park, and almost all bat species found in Slovakia.