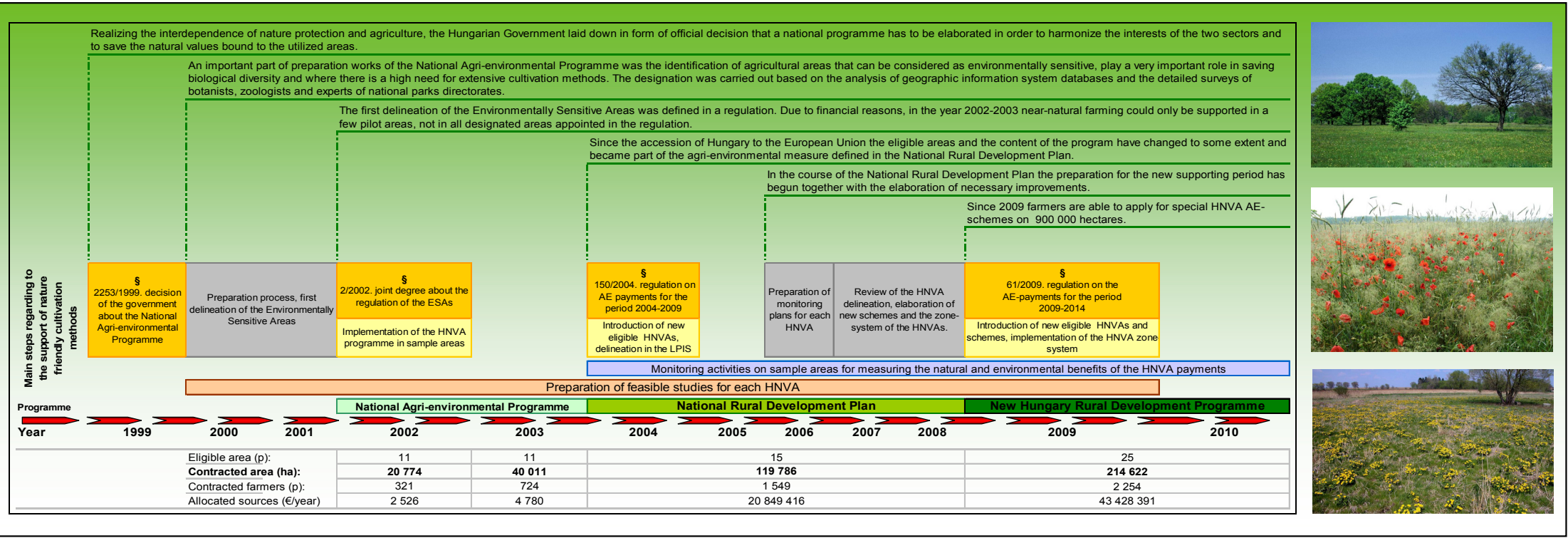


The support of nature-friendly management methods in High Nature Value Farmland Areas in Hungary

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The Programme of High Nature Value Areas from the beginnings to our time

Cultivated lands represent 83% of the territory of Hungary, therefore considerable part of our natural values can be found in ecosystems evolved under human impact. That is the reason why there is high need in Hungary for integrating nature protection objectives into farming and for harmonizing the goals of nature conservation and agriculture. Hungary supports farmers taking on special, voluntary nature protection aimed management requirements in the designated High Nature Value Areas by means of area-based agri-environmental payments. The delineation of the HNVAs, the elaboration of land-use prescriptions, the establishment of the current support-system are all results of the efforts in the last ten years. The process is summarized in the following figure.

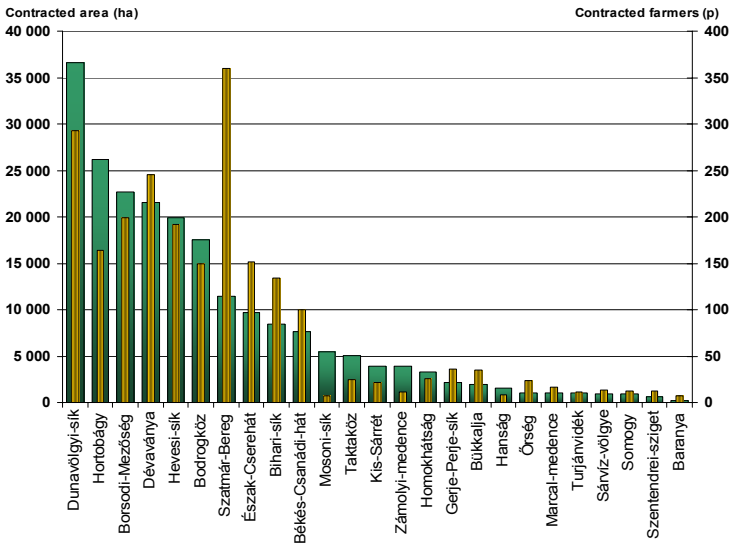


The special nature protection aimed agri-environmental schemes of HNVAs and the results in 2009

Farmers in HNVAs had the opportunity to apply for 7 different special nature protection-aimed agri-environmental schemes. Schemes developed for grasslands and arable lands are specified for the protection of some species or for the improvement of habitats, but thanks to the complexity of the commitments the program also improves natural conditions and biological diversity.

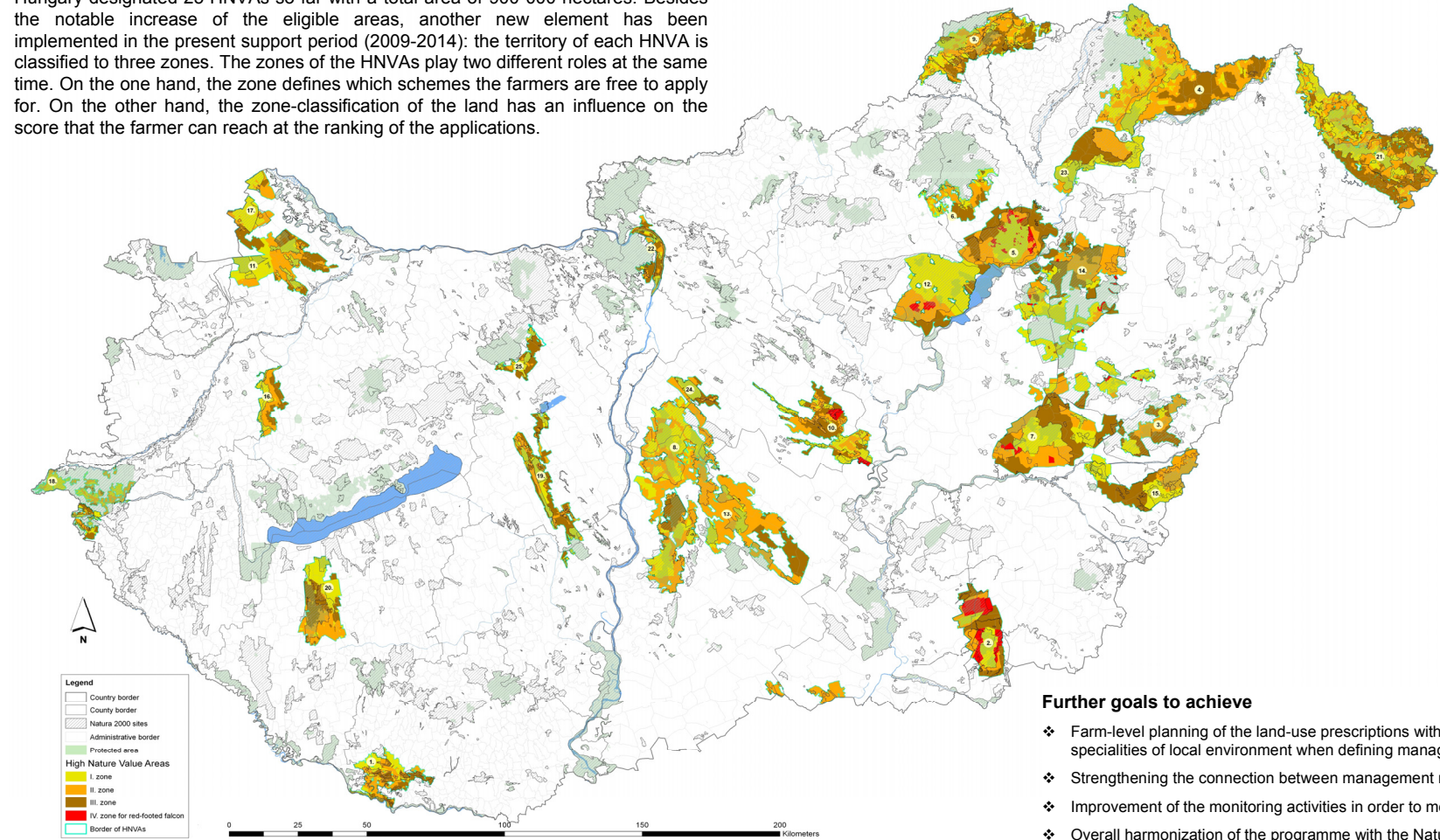
Zonal agri-environmental scheme for High Nature Value Farmland Areas

	Contracted area (ha)	Natura 2000 (ha)	%
Arable farming scheme with habitat improvement specifications for Great Bustard	62 922	43 898	70%
Arable farming scheme with habitat improvement specifications for Wild Goose and Crane	377	163	43%
Arable farming scheme with specifications of habitat improvement for Red-footed Falcon	2 225	1 727	78%
Arable farming scheme with specifications of habitat improvement for birds and small game	34 154	8 391	25%
Grassland management scheme with specifications of habitat improvement for Great Bustard	82 141	77 394	94%
Grassland management scheme with specifications of habitat improvement	28 349	20 973	74%
Nature conservation land use scheme for the conversion of arable land into grassland management	4 453	2 532	57%

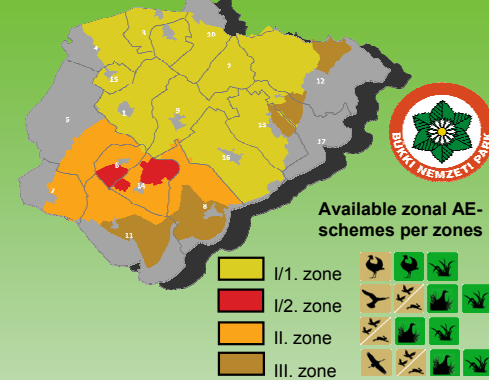


The designated High Nature Value Areas and their zonation

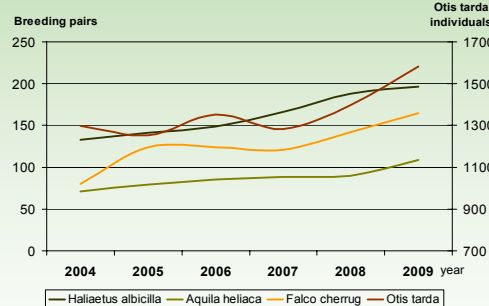
Hungary designated 25 HNVAs so far with a total area of 900 000 hectares. Besides the notable increase of the eligible areas, another new element has been implemented in the present support period (2009-2014): the territory of each HNVA is classified to three zones. The zones of the HNVAs play two different roles at the same time. On the one hand, the zone defines which schemes the farmers are free to apply for. On the other hand, the zone-classification of the land has an influence on the score that the farmer can reach at the ranking of the applications.



The Heves-plain High Nature Value Farmland Area and its zonation



Population trends of some target species on national level



Further goals to achieve

- ❖ Farm-level planning of the land-use prescriptions with the assistance of an advisory system, and consideration of the specialities of local environment when defining management requirements.
- ❖ Strengthening the connection between management requirements and the ecological needs of target species.
- ❖ Improvement of the monitoring activities in order to measure the natural and environmental benefits of payments.
- ❖ Overall harmonization of the programme with the Natura 2000 network.