# Grassland restoration projects in the BNPD – increasing need for grassland restoration in nature conservation



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"Grassland restoration, seedling workshop"

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### Outline

- Forested national park ⇒ why manage the grasslands?
- Grassland restoration projects, lowland vs. montane grassland management
- Seed sowing propagation (OP examples)
- Future hints



#### Basic facts of Bükk NP:

- est. 1977 (1st forested)
- 43.168 hectars
- 94% forest & 3,3% grassland, 0,4% arable land
- only 3 settlenments within, thus
- 21 settlemets overlap

#### Tasks:

- To protect the typical and varied landscape features and the natural assets: \*Rock formations, caves, dolines, springs and other water bodies; \*Mountain meadows and pastures rich in Carpathian floristic elements, typical and rare forest types, as well as indigenous plant communities and animal species.





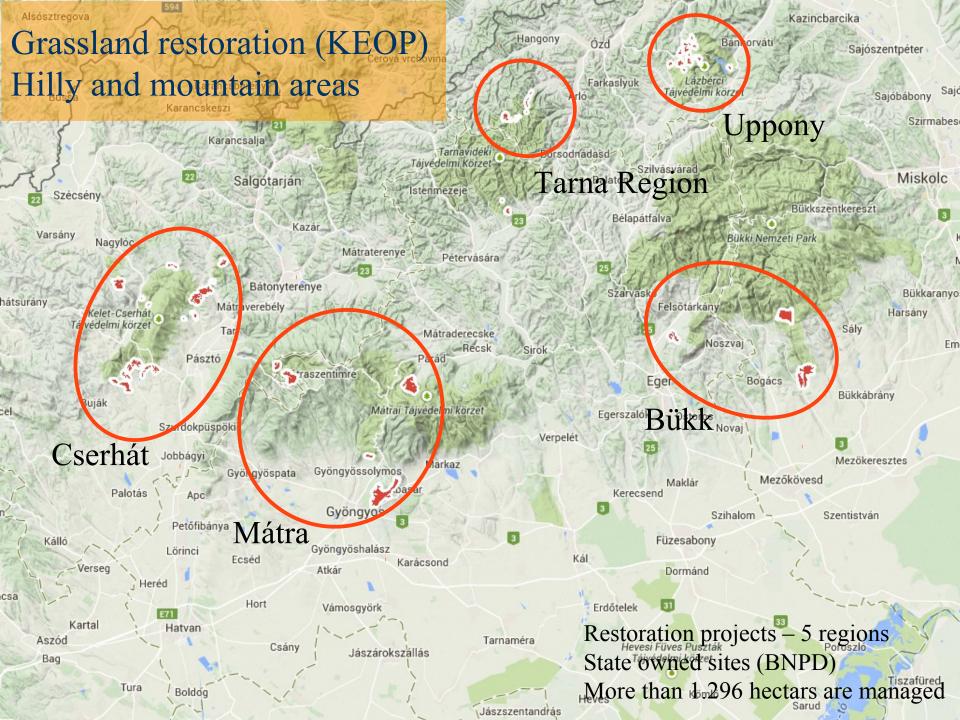
#### **Grassland habitats**

- occur in a broad spectra from mountain hayfields (6510) to alkalic steppes (1530) due to the terrain differences
- on the foothills the target habitats are steppe grasslands and semi-dry grasslands (esp. Bükk, Mátra, Cserhát, Heves-Borsod Hills)
- main threads: succession and scrub encrouchment

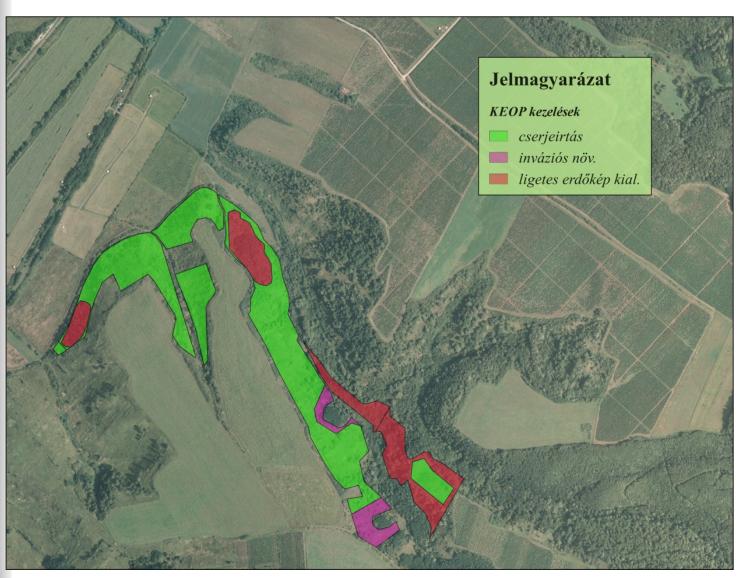
- Mass extent of lowland grasslands – low productivity & traditional landuse (grazing, mowing)
- Majority of lands is managed via land leasing (external farmers)
- Minority of lands is managed by BNPD (allow more nature conservation possibilities)



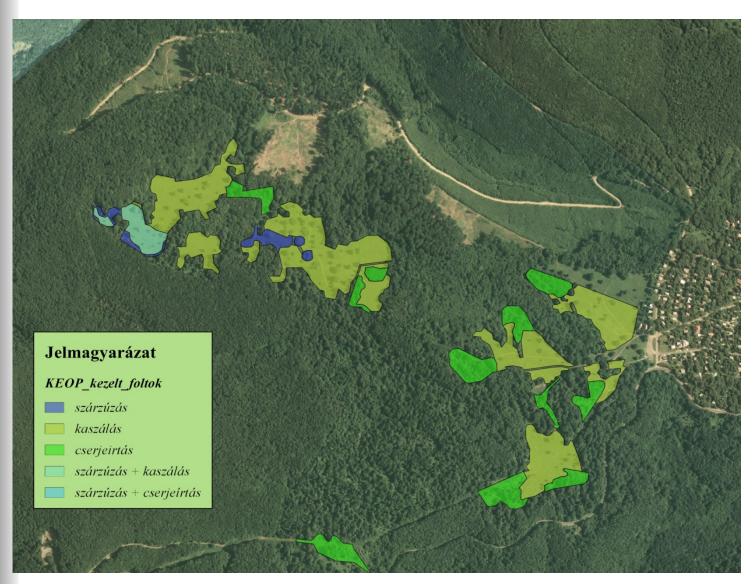
| Lowland grassland   | VS.                     | Mountain grassland   |
|---|-------------------------|--|
|   | EXTENT                  |  |
| Greater (10 ha>)  |                         | Lower (>0.1 ha)  |
|   | STRUCTURE               |  |
| More homogenious (main vegetation type, alkalic vegetation complexes) Surrounded by agricultural land. Lower biomass. |                         | More heterogenious (forest-<br>steppe vegetation: wooded,<br>shrubby, grassy patches)<br>Surrounded by forests.<br>Higher biomass. |
|   | SUCCESSION              |  |
| Slower, mostly species composition changes (e.g. <i>Agropyron repens</i> )  |                         | Rather quick (1-3 years is enough for the woody vegetation to recover)   |
|   | MAIN THREADS            |  |
| Abandonment, hydoe-<br>cological changes (e.g.<br>drying out, alkalisation)   |                         | Abandonment, shrub<br>encrouchment + invasive<br>species + game species  |
|   | SCIENTIFIC<br>KNOWLEDGE |  |
| More studied  |                         | Less studied   |



## Grassland restoration (KEOP) – example I. (Eger)



### Grassland restoration (KEOP) – example II. (Parád)



### Some general conclusions

- The KEOP projects should be regarded as a  $,kick \ off'' \rightarrow the \ efficiency \ without post-managment is rather poor$
- Localities with older management history are much more successful (e.g. Tard: from 1998)
- Localities with smaller management parcels and mixed measures are more successful
- External factors are also be considered, such as game pressure and spontaneous and direct fires
- The scientic knowledge should be increased (less empirical, more evidence and site based)

### External (extreme?) factors



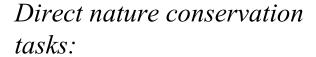
Can not be planned...



### Grassland restoration (KEOP) – seed propagation



Permission tasks:
e.g. seed sowing at
landfills, former mining
areas, along trafic lines,
etc. (mostly before 2005)



e.g. arable land conversion, restoration of archeological sites, earthworks, kurgans





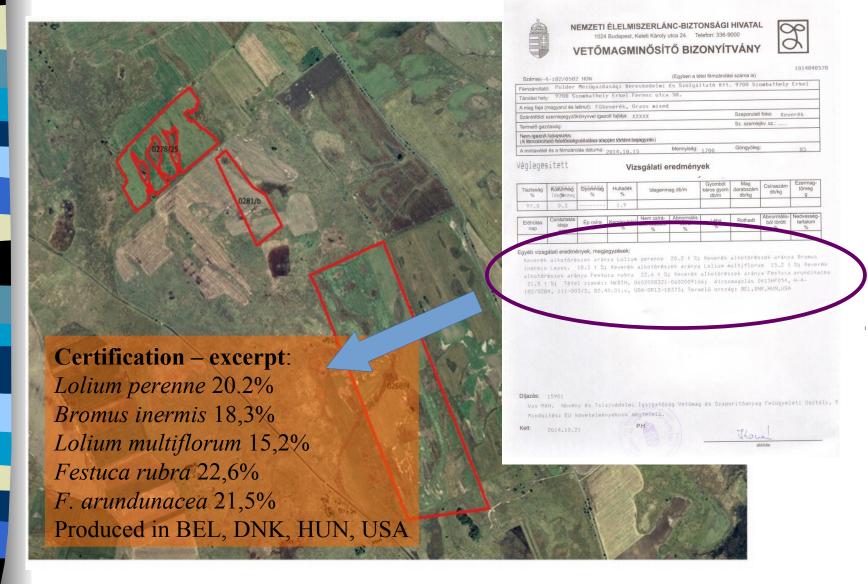




## Grassland restoration (KEOP) – seed sowing example I. (Pély)



## Grassland restoration (KEOP) – seed sowing example I. (Pély)



## Grassland restoration (KEOP) – seed sowing example II. (Átány)

Abandonment of arable land:

- More successful after lucerne and cereal cultures – rapid regeneration
- More successful if additional grazing used (sheep) + extreme evaporation (e.g. 2010)





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### Thank you for your attention!





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