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- Kingfisher Aquatic Nature Trail



Partnership for a better future



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Körös-Maros National Park

KÖRÖSVÖLGY ANIMAL PARK



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KÖRÖSVÖLGY VISITORS' CENTER

In Szarvas, next to the Headquarters of the Körös-Maros National Park Directorate, the Körösvölgy Visitors' Center was built in 2003 as a place to house exhibitions on environmental conservation and a wide variety of programs and services for interested visitors.

The Visitors' Center's permanent exhibition acquaints guests with the **natural values of the Southern Trantisza region**. The exhibition takes up two floors and presents the history of the region and, with the help of dioramas, the park's protected and specially protected species. The building complex is surrounded by the **26-acre Anna-liget (Anna Park)**, valuable not only because of the natural environment it represents but the **Csáky Castle and the castle park**, are important pieces of cultural history as well. The walkway starting out from the main building of the Visitors' Center allows guests to become acquainted with the **original alluvial flora, the Bolza regional scenery garden, and the surprisingly rich fauna**.

The center offers several programs per month as a part of their ecotourism services. **The Spring Opening, Lambs' Easter, Day of Birds and Trees, Children's Day, Family Discovery Hike, School Break Animal Watch, Night of the Zoos, World Animal Day, and the Mushroom Fair** are some of the **organized programs**. The professional program offer is expanded each year. There are over 20 services available to hiking groups in the visitors' center.

KÖRÖSVÖLGY ANIMAL PARK

The Körösvölgy Animal Park opened in 2014, allows guests to get to know the animal species that were once or are now native to the **Carpathian Basin as well as those whose populations are currently spreading**. The three aquariums located in the Visitors' Center comprising a **total volume of 7000 liters** and the **over 50 species of fauna** on the Animal Park can be viewed by visitors. Along the Anna-liget Nature Trail on an approx. 2100 meter-long path there are **9 bird volieres, four carnivore houses, an enclosed aquatic environment, a separately traversable squirrel house, an outdoor turtle terrarium, 5 large animal enclosures** and 2 special enclosures suitable for housing dangerous species all allowing guests to view a variety of animals. Some of the animals housed here are specimens participating in different species conservation efforts, while others are animals which, for various reasons, are incapable of surviving independently in the wild.

Protected and non-protected species alike reside in the Animal Park. Visitors can meet shy creatures such as the **wildcat, the Eurasian eagle-owl, the marten, the raccoon dog, or the golden jackal**. In Anna-liget we may see **red deer, fallow deer, wild boars, and foxes**, all well-known species that are nonetheless seldom seen in the wild by hikers. Various aquatic birds call the park's lake home. The biggest attractions, however, are the moose and **European bison**. The latter once had their natural habitat in the area between the river Maros and Sárrét (The Moor), but they cannot be found in the wild anywhere in the Southern Alföld today.

TRANSBORDER COOPERATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HERITAGE

It is the responsibility of the Körös-Maros National Park Directorate to sustain the beneficial natural state of the areas under trusteeship, protected and specially protected areas, and areas within the Natura 2000 network.

The project implemented within the Interreg V-A Romania-Magyarország (Hungary) Program aims to contribute to the preservation of the alkaline plains and alluvial habitats within the framework of a border-traversing cooperation applying both theoretical research and practical procedures, furthermore with environmental education activities in order to create a social background for the project and environmental conservation in general.

The water system of the rivers Körös is located in two countries, Romania and Hungary. This region rich in natural values also boasts a wealth of cultural and land management traditions. Preservation of the heritage that traverses the border between the two countries is a serious challenge due to river regulation the changes posed by the modern age which are present on both sides.

The project places great emphasis on the treatment methods and procedures for developing and evaluating the state of the different natural habitats. Furthermore, it lays the groundwork for the implementation of methods that can be applied on a wide scale to help those who are working with similar habitats.

The project aims to create more natural habitats along the river (floodplains and forests). The spread of shrubs and invasive species must be decreased with special procedures carried out with machinery. The deterioration of once-natural habitats can be stopped with these environmental conservation procedures.

The project aims to preserve former alluvial areas and plains, the sustainability of these is ensured mainly by grazing. Grazing requires significant infrastructure during the grazing period as well, without this infrastructure, it cannot be carried which would lead to deterioration of the natural state of the plains.

Creating the social background for the natural values concerned and the activities that aim to conserve them is an important task, thus the project emphasizes showcasing these values and the necessary measures to the public and others who are concerned as well as on environmentalists education. The Directorate's center for these presentation activities is in Szarvas at the Körösvölgy Visitors' Center and Animal Park surrounded by the Hármas-Körös backwater.

Project implementation period:
March 1, 2018 - February 29, 2020

Beneficiaries/Partners:
Körös-Maros National Park Directorate
Don Orione Foundation (Oradea)
Békés County Chamber of Commerce and Industry

