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# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT – SLOVAK REPUBLIC

## 2018

*25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of annual reports*

# RECREATION AND TOURISM

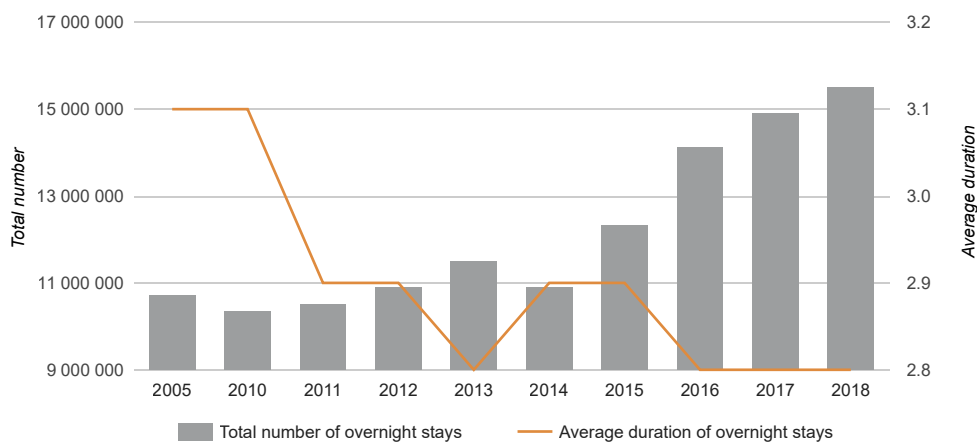
## SPECIFIC ANALYSIS OF RECREATION AND TOURISM

The development of tourism is **one of the few encouraging sectors for which the SR has promise** and that cannot be relocated to neighbouring countries. This does not however mean that it can be developed in Slovakia without limits. It will be **necessary to determine the carrying capacity of the territory, primarily in localities with high traffic and vulnerable environments**, to ensure expertly justified and more precisely supported regulations, respectively to direct the development of tourism, including visitor numbers.

The trend in the SR is a slight rise in the number of overnight stays, with alternating periods of longer stays slightly increasing and on the other hand short significant decreases.

In 2009 there was a more significant decrease in the number of overnight stays (a decrease by almost 17%), compared to a longer period of growth between 2005 and 2008. Since then **the number of overnight stays has again increased, while in 2018 there was an additional year-on-year increase** (by 3.87%), while in the medium term (since 2005) this increase is even more significant (44.6%). From 2005 to 2011, however, there was an almost **continuous average fall in the duration of overnight stays** reflecting the level of attractiveness of the tourism destination as well as the level of infrastructure development impacting the duration of stays (from 3.8 overnight stays to 2.9). Since then it has stabilised at approximately this level (2.8 overnight stays).

**Chart 083 I** Trend in the performance of accommodation facilities in the SR



Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

## IMPACT OF RECREATION AND TOURISM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The intensity of tourist traffic is not evenly distributed. For tourists, the most attractive destinations are the national parks, yet these are potentially the most vulnerable to tourist activity. Localities for mountain tourism are concentrated in the TANAP, NAPANT and the NP Malá Fatra areas. From the perspective of the density of **marked bike trails and marked hiking trails (MHT)**, the most fragmented areas are, due to

their size, PIENAP, National park (NP) Muránska planina and NP Slovenský raj. In 2018 there was a year-on-year slight increase in the length of cycle trails in TANAP and hiking trails in NP Veľká Fatra. There was a slight decrease in the length of footpaths for tourists in NP Slovenský raj. In NP Slovenský kras 1 locality for mountaineering and rock climbing was added.

**Table 012 I** Numbers of localities for mountain tourism outside the built-up areas of municipalities in the territory of the national parks (Section 14(1)(b)(c) and (d) of Act No 543/2002, on nature and landscape protection)

Name of the protected area	Mountaineering and rock climbing	Skialpinism	Camping and bivouacking	Ski resorts	Cross-country skiing **	Cyclotourism **	Hiking **
<b>Tatra national park (TANAP)</b>							
2005	whole territory*	6	1	7	108/0.14	150/0.20	690/0.93
2017	whole territory*	6	1	7	108/0.14	276/0.38	703/0.95
2018	whole territory*	6	1	7	108/0.14	279/0.38	703/0.95
<b>National park Nízke Tatry (NAPANT)</b>							
2005	4	6 (3 sites, 2 routes, 1 locality)	7	6	40 + suitable MHT	718/0.39 (including buffer zone)	800/0.98
2017	4	6 (3 sites, 2 routes, 1 locality)	7	6	41.2 + suitable MHT	764/0.42 (including buffer zone)	816.5/0.45 (vrátane OP NP)
2018	4	6 (3 sites, 2 routes, 1 locality)	7	6	41.2 + suitable MHT	764/0.42 (including buffer zone)	816.5/0.45 (including buffer zone)
<b>National park Malá Fatra</b>							
2005	5	0	4	2	15 + 157 MHT	35	157/0.69
2017	5	0	4	2	15 + 157 MHT	35/0.15 + 6.09 downhill	172/0.76
2018	5	0	4	2	15 + 157 MHT	35/0.15 + 6.09 downhill	172/0.76
<b>Pieniny national park (PIENAP)</b>							
2005	0	0	2	1	22/0.59	15/0.4	60/1.6
2017	0	0	2	0	27/0.70	21/0.60	52/1.40
2018	0	0	2	0	27/0.70	21/0.60	52/1.40
<b>National park Slovenský raj</b>							
2005	5***	0	3	7	50 + suitable MHT (including buffer zone)	118.5/0.1 (including buffer zone)	215/1.09
2017	10***	0	3	5	88 + suitable MHT (including buffer zone)	102/0.5	238/1.3
2018	10***	0	3	5	88 + suitable MHT (including buffer zone)	102/0.5	232/1.2
<b>National park Muránska planina</b>							
2005	2	0	3	0	26/0.13	13/0.06	318/1.57
2017	2	0	3 (in addition bivouacking: do 100 m od MHT in addition to NNR, NR and PS)	0	44 + all MHT, i.e. 362 (incl. OP)	198 (NP including OP)	318 (including OP)
2018	2	0	3 (in addition bivouacking: do 100 m od MHT in addition to NNR, NR and PS)	0	44 + all MHT, i.e. 362 (incl. OP)	198 (NP including OP)	318 (including OP)



## TRANSITION TO A GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Name of the protected area	Mountaineering and rock climbing	Skialpinism	Camping and bivouacking	Ski resorts	Cross-country skiing **	Cyclotourism **	Hiking **
<b>National park Poloniny</b>							
2005	0	0	2	1	suitable MHT	44/0.15	119/0.4
2017	0	0	2	1	suitable MHT	33/0.11	85/0.29
2018	0	0	2	1	suitable MHT	33/0.11	85/0.29
<b>National park Slovenský kras</b>							
2005	1	0	0	0	0	38/0.19	270/0.78
2017	1	0	4	0	suitable MHT	40/0.20	270/0.78
2018	2	0	4	0	suitable MHT	40/0.20	270/0.78
<b>National park Veľká Fatra</b>							
2005	8	1	6	3	300/0.74	103/0.26	300/0.74
2017	8	1 + MHT	6	3	302/0.75	150/0.40	390/1.00
2018	8	1 + MHT	6	3	302/0.75	150/0.40	392/1.00

Source: State Nature Conservancy of the SR

Note:

\* - in addition to 10 localities defined in the visitor rules, where mountaineering is banned

\*\* - in the case of cross-country skiing, cyclotourism and hiking, data are given for the length of the marked cross-country trails, cycle trails and marked hiking trails in km or in km/km<sup>2</sup>

\*\*\* - including ice climbing

One significant environmental problem is the **continuous increase in the length of erosion-impacted MHT located in the zone above the upper tree limit and in gorges**, where the extreme climatic conditions significantly worsen the conditions for regeneration of soil and vegetation. **Critical erosion of soil on marked hiking trails is visible in NAPANT, NP Malá Fatra, NP Muránska planina and TANAP. This**

**erosion is increasing. In 2018 there was a slight increase in the length of impacted cyclotourism trails in TANAP (of 0.4 km). There was a more significant increase in impacted MHT in TANAP (of 8 km) and NP Slovenský raj (of 6 km). In NP Slovenský raj there was also a more significant increase in the length of impacted cyclotourism trails (from 4 to 5 km).**

**Table 013 I** Soil erosion on marked hiking trails and cyclotourism trails in the national parks

Name of protected area	Total length of erosion-impacted cyclotourism trails (km/% of the total length)	Total length of erosion-impacted marked hiking trails (km/% of the total length)
<b>Tatra national park</b>		
2005	0	150/21.7
2017	23.5/8.5	248/35.5
2018	23.9/8.6	256/36.4
<b>National park Nízke Tatry</b>		
2005	0	390/48.7
2017	90/12	570/70
2018	90/12	570/70
<b>National park Malá Fatra</b>		
2005	all cycle routes are part of MHT	120/76
2017	all cycle routes are part of MHT	125/74.85
2018	all cycle routes are part of MHT	125/74.85

Name of protected area	Total length of erosion-impacted cyclotourism trails (km/% of the total length)	Total length of erosion-impacted marked hiking trails (km/% of the total length)
<b>Pieniny national park</b>		
2005	2/13.3	2/3.3
2017	4/19	4/7.7
2018	4/19	4/7.7
<b>National park Slovenský raj</b>		
2005	0	50/23.3
2017	4/4	24/10
2018	5/5.3	30/12.9
<b>National park Muránska planina</b>		
2005	0	118/37.2
2017	2.94/2	118/37.2
2018	2.94/2	118/37.2
<b>National park Poloniny</b>		
2005	0	1/1
2017	0	4/4.7
2018	0	4/4.7
<b>National park Slovenský kras</b>		
2005	15/10	30/11.1
2017	15/10	30/11.1
2018	15/10	30/11.1
<b>National park Veľká Fatra</b>		
2005	1/1	17/5.7
2017	3.0/2.3	15/4.5
2018	3.0/2.3	15/4.5

Source: State Nature Conservancy of the SR