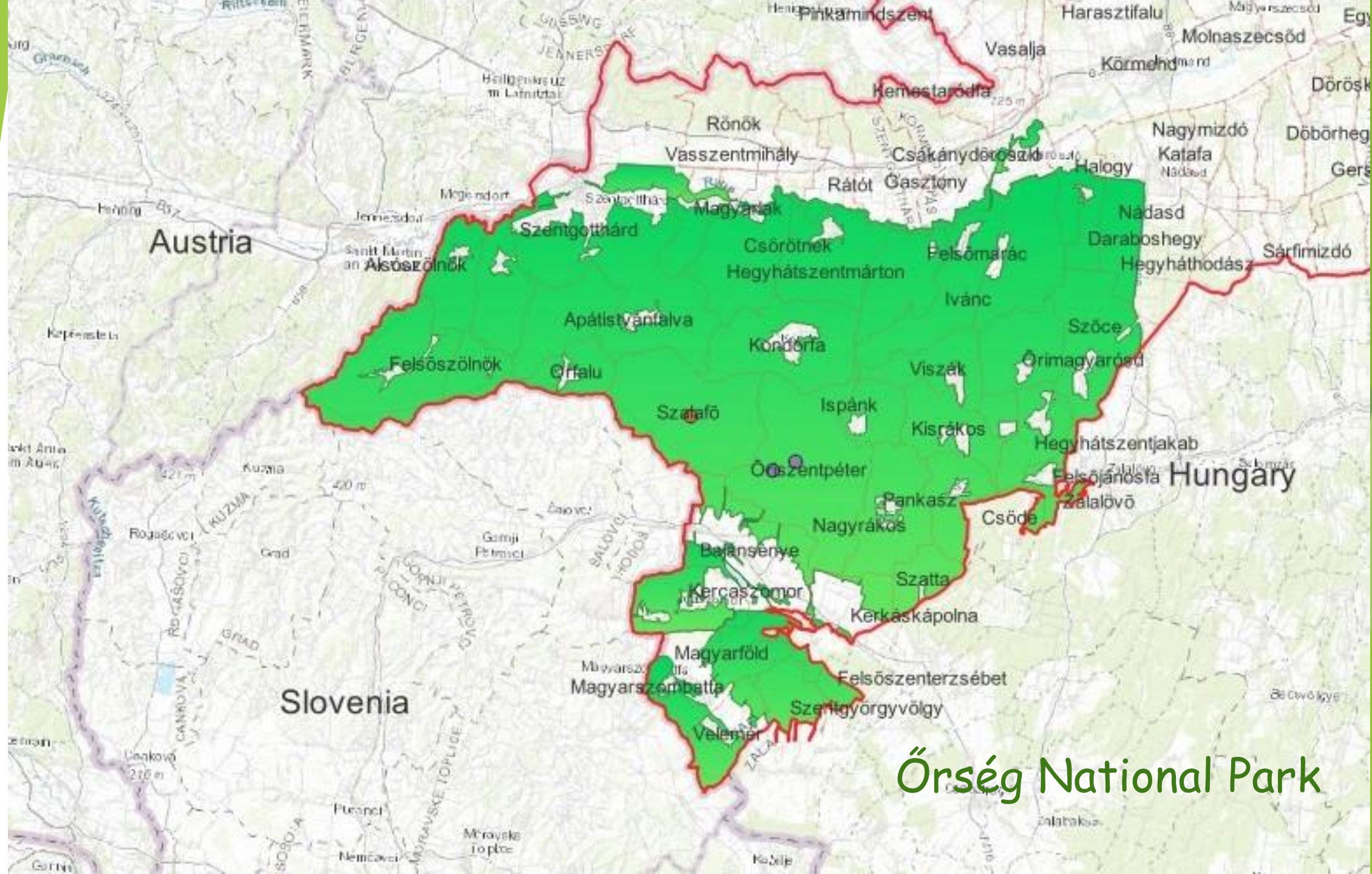




Dániel Nagy

Orchards connectivity - possibilities of enhancing orchard meadow habitats in the border region





Őrség National Park

Orchards of Órség National Park Directorate



Csörgőalma Orchard



Orchards of Őrség National Park Directorate



„Keserűszer“ 20 rare and endangered varieties



Orchards of Őrség National Park Directorate

Pityerszer open-air museum
„Life in the meadow orchard“



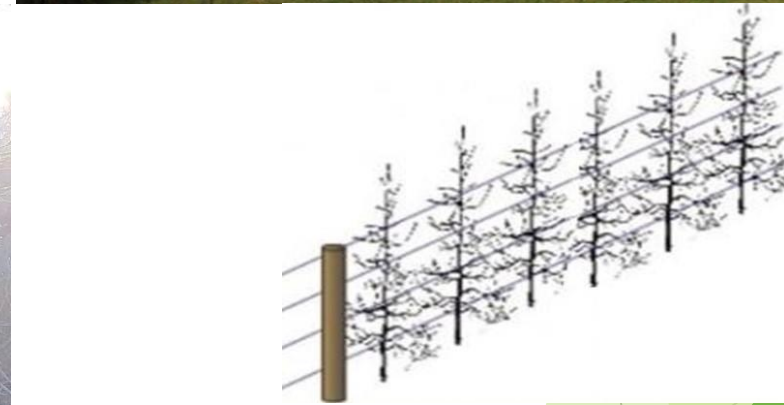
Why is it valuable for nature conservation?



- in-situ conservation of local varieties
- in-situ maintenance of the knowledge
- increasing agrobiodiversity
- keeping up traditions (grafting onto wild rootstock for example)

Why is it valuable for nature conservation?

- Tree microhabitats



planting space (m2)	yield (kg/tree)	specific yield I. (kg/m2)	specific yield II. (ton/ha)
3,2	16	5,0	50
113	1100	9,7	48

(Zsolt Szani's comparison)

Why is it valuable for nature conservation? - Flora



Primula vulgaris
Anacamptis morio
Spiranthes spiralis

Why is it valuable for nature conservation? - Fauna

During surveys executed in 82 meadow orchards we observed 53 butterfly and 38 bird species

Most common butterfly species:

Iphiclides podalirius
Papilio machaon
Maculinea nausithous
Maculinea teleius
Vanessa atalanta
Argynnis paphia
Lycaena dispar
Erebia medusa
Plebejus idas
Brenthis daphne
Heteropterus morpheus

Most common bird species:

Passer montanus
Sturnus vulgaris
Turdus philomelos
Parus major
Turdus merula

Missing species:

Colias myrmidone
Otus scops
Upupa epops



Why is it valuable for nature conservation? - Genetic diversity



surveys of 34 villages in
Őrség included 4200 tree
specimens:

apple - 192
pear - 118
plum - 35
cherry - 43

varieties are found



What do we do now?



What else do we do now?



- 3 appointed goals:
- research
 - conservation
 - popularization



„Csörgőalma grafting day”



OrCon - Orchards Connectivity

Main goals for orchard meadows:

Preserving biodiversity hotspots and enhancing significance of traditional fruit varieties

INTERREG project 2024-2026

Őrség National Park Directorate
Naturpark Weindylle
Naturpark Raab



Transboundary ecological network of orchard meadows

- Every single orchard connects similar habitats as stepping-stones,
- enables the gene exchange of populations, improving migration

Identification of fruit varieties

- Morphological and genetic testing, with genetic testing of common or unidentified varieties in Őrség (100),
- we look for their Austrian equivalents



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Joint management strategy for orchard meadows

- identification of the most valuable orchards
- guidance to biodiversity-supportive gardening methods and suggestion of most valuable, climate change resistant varieties

Engaging local communities, knowledge transfer

- providing valuable knowledge in practice: fruit processing workshops, professional training for producers, exhibitions of fruit varieties, grafting days, and study tours
- enhancing orchard meadow habitats by installing bird boxes, insect hotels, and by planting shrubs and wildflowers
- launching the "Adopt a Fruit Tree" initiative in schools



OrCon - Orchards Connectivity

Promoting local orchard products

- economic opportunity: social demand has been increasing towards healthy, chemical-free food, traditional fruit varieties could fulfill this
- channeling “national park product” labelled products into local gastronomy in Őrség:
 - breakfast packages
 - local product fairs
 - local product shelves in visitor centres for products
 - labelled ingredients in restaurants
- labelling system in Austria: building on our experience, the Austrian partners develop local products from orchards and launch a labelling system



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Thank you for your attention!

