

LAND COVER CHANGES OF NATURE CONSERVATION AREAS BETWEEN 1990 AND 2006 – CASE STUDY FROM THE KISKUNSÁG NATIONAL PARK

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Abstract: The socialist state system has radically transformed after the transition in Hungary. In this context one of the most important step was to give the former community property into private hands. In the primary sector the former land owners could get new farm land during the compensation process. National Parks had a special role, which meant they had pre-emptive right to buy the protected areas. Before 1990 the state and the national parks owned only a small percent of the protected areas, because the former agricultural cooperatives were the most important land managers. This situation changed briefly because the state gave subsidy for land buying to the national parks in the compensation process, and after that this system remains until the mid 2000's. In this research we would like to investigate the land cover changes of the protected areas according to the changes in the ownership and in the management. We analyse the CORINE Land Cover Changes databases between 1990 and 2006. After we determine a broader picture we mainly focus on the Kiskunság National Park, and we try to identify their methods and results how the agricultural land has transformed to semi natural areas. The actuality of our research is that the Hungarian government decided to give 20 % of protected areas to the National Land Management Organisation at the end of 2014. The results interpreted in the paper rested mainly on the research supported by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund – OTKA 109269.