



### What do locals benefit from the project?

A study trail is to be built on the habitat of *Dianthus diutinus*, which could be a pleasant target both for children and adults for nature walks.

A special guided nature tour could be organized as a facultative program to get tourists visiting the area acquainted with the long-lasting pink, as well as the ecosystem of open perennial grassland.

Habitat reconstruction also offers job opportunities for locals.

Public awareness will be raised to make locals more proud of their natural heritage including rare plant species that could not be found anywhere in the world.

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### The program:

- aims to stop further population decrease of the endangered plant species;
- lasts for five years, hence finishes on 31 August 2011;
- total budget is 1,6 million €, of which 75% is being provided from the European Union's LIFE-Nature source for nature conservation;

### Beneficiary

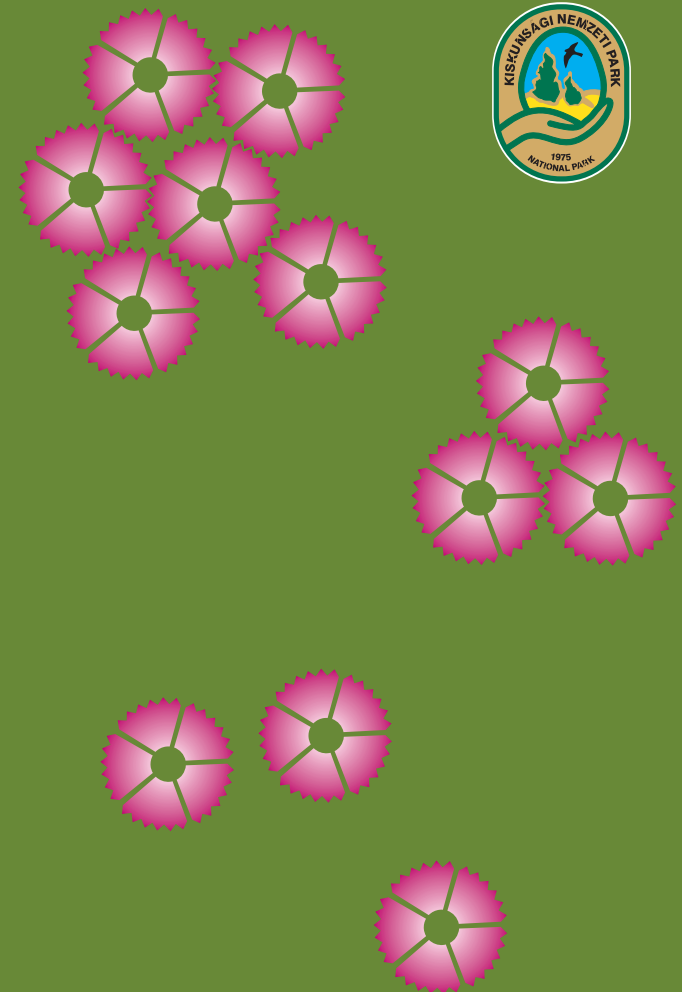
- Kiskunság National Park Directorate

### Partners:

- Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate
- University of Szeged
- Local Government of Kiskunmajsa

### Co-financer:

- Ministry of Environment and Water



*Conservation of the Pannon endemic **Dianthus diutinus***

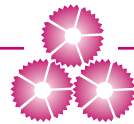
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**Long-lasting pink is:**

- a slender plant with intense pink petals,
- flowering from June to October,
- inhabits open perennial grasslands.



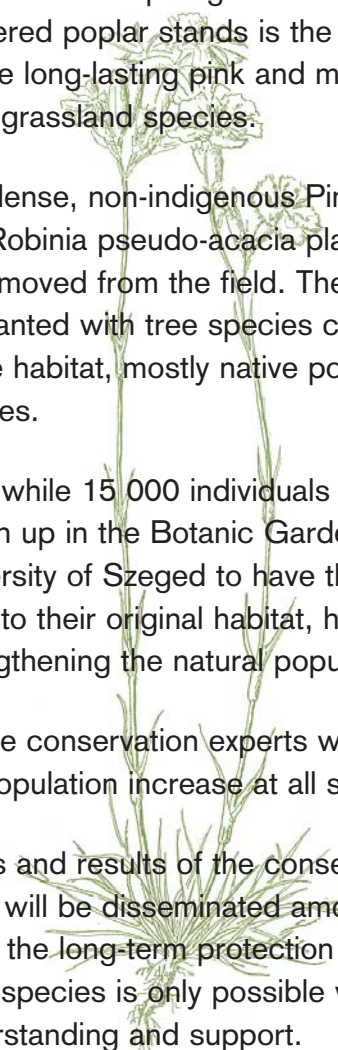
**The long-lasting pink is endemic to the Pannonian basin, lives only in the Danube Tisza Interfluve Region.**

**Why active protection measures are needed?**

- Afforestation of dry sand areas in the second half of the last century destroyed most of the appropriate habitats.
- Natural plant associations are replaced by non-indigenous, invasive plant species, like milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*).
- Long-lasting pink habitats are overshadowed by tree plantations causing significant habitat loss.
- Irresponsible behaviour of drivers of off-road vehicles.

**What actions do we take to maintain this pink species?**

- The natural habitats of the species will be reconstructed at its most important sites at Bodoglár, Bócsa and Csévharaszt.
- The mosaic of open grassland with scattered poplar stands is the ideal habitat for the long-lasting pink and many other sand grassland species.
- The dense, non-indigenous *Pinus nigra* and *Robinia pseudo-acacia* plantations will be removed from the field. Their place will be planted with tree species characteristic of the habitat, mostly native poplar species.
- Meanwhile 15 000 individuals will be grown up in the Botanic Garden of the University of Szeged to have them planted back to their original habitat, hence strengthening the natural population.
- Nature conservation experts will monitor the population increase at all sites.
- Goals and results of the conservation program will be disseminated among locals, since the long-term protection of this rare plant species is only possible with their understanding and support.



Hungary has an extremely rich natural heritage.

Although the country covers just 1% of Europe's territory, it hosts diverse habitats that can not be found in most countries of the continent.

More than 42.000 animal and 2.200 plant species inhabits Hungary's 93.000 km<sup>2</sup>. Many of them are rare, endemic species, such as the long-lasting pink.

**Known long-lasting pink sites:**

Site	Individuals
Kiskunmajsa-Bodoglár	8000
Bócsa	3500
Csévharaszt	800
Nagykőrös	550
Harkakötöny	490
Ócsa	300
Ásotthalom	160
Fülöpháza	12