



**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
OMBUDSMAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Legislative proposal to increase the monetary value of protected species (2023)

The obligation to protect endemic plant and animal species – as part of the nation's common heritage – is highlighted and specifically mentioned in the Fundamental Law of Hungary. In 2023, the Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, Ombudsman for Future Generations also paid special attention to protected species.

In Hungary, the minister responsible for nature conservation assigns a monetary value to each protected species. Although natural systems or species are not identical, consequently they cannot be compared, still a monetary valuation might somehow quantify their value, making it more perceptible, comprehensible and comparable. Monetary valuation also enables these natural values to be calculated as material assets.

However, the current monetary value of protected species is particularly very low compared to current financial and economic conditions. Adequate valuation of species is closely linked to the fulfilment of the state's biodiversity conservation objective as set out in Article P) of the Fundamental Law, and can also contribute to appropriate decisions-making regarding state assets. For example, the value of some natural resources – in this case, protected species – should not be significantly lower than of other assets (e.g. mineral resources or huntable game species).

Based on the above, the Ombudsman for Future Generations submitted a legislative proposal to increase the monetary value of protected species and to define it adequately. On the one hand, the value of the country's protected species determines the amount of state assets available in this area. On the other hand, it also shows the extent and significance of the damage that would result from their destruction. It is therefore essential to assign a relevant value to each element.

Accordingly, it is appropriate to increase the monetary value of natural assets, defined in law, to make the assessment of the related activities more accurate and to ensure that the related sanctions are proportionate and dissuasive.

The full text of the legislative proposal in Hungarian is available here:

[https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/0/Javaslat a vedett fajok ertekenek novelesere.pdf](https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/0/Javaslat+a+vedett+fajok+ertekenek+novelesere.pdf)

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