

# **What the EU Nature Restoration Law means for large lakes in Hungary**

**How we can link the protection of lakes to the EU policy making**

***“Natural resources, particularly arable land, forests and water resources, as well as biological diversity, in particular native plant and animal species and cultural values shall comprise the nation’s common heritage; responsibility to protect and preserve them for future generations lies with the State and every individual.”***

**Fundamental Law of Hungary, Article P**



Nagy Tavak és  
Vizes Élőhelyek  
Szövetsége

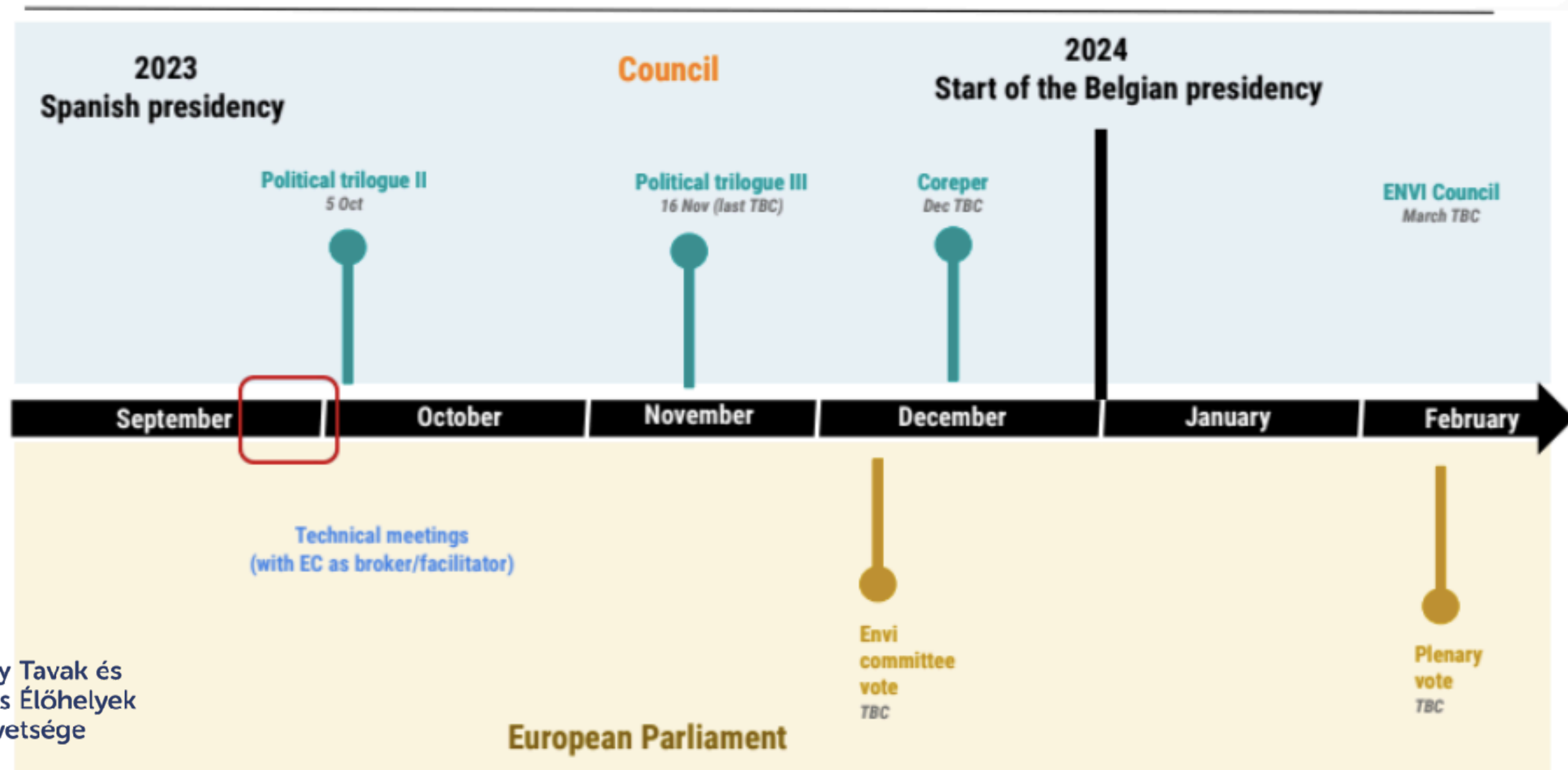
# What's the origin of the EU Nature Restoration Law

## Hungary's International and European commitments

- CBD Kunming-Montreal declaration (Global Biodiversity Framework)
  - 30% of degraded habitats will be under effective restoration by 2030
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - bringing nature back into our lives
  - By 2030 significant areas of degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems are restored
  - At least 30% reach favorable conservation status or at least show a positive trend
  - Binding EU Nature restoration target

# What do we expect during the policy making process

Civil Society Organisations want to communicate the positive benefits of nature restoration (nature-based solutions) to policy makers and public



# Great Lakes and Wetlands Association

## Cooperation and Support

- Challenges and threats are the same
- NGO statement in 2020 calls the Parliament for urgent action
- The Parliament unfortunately ignored our request
- Misconception of water surplus
- We work in 4 working groups



# 84%

**Hungary is second in losing freshwater habitats in the EU**  
**Huge pressure on our waters**

# A KÁRPÁTMEDENCE

VÍZBORÍTOTTA ÉS ÁRVÍZJÁRTA  
TERÜLETEI  
AZ ÁRMENTESÍTŐ ÉS  
LECSAPOLÓ MUNKÁLATOK  
MEGKEZDÉSE ELŐTT.

MÉRETARÁNY: 1:100.000



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## SZÍNMAGYARÁZAT

Világos kék: az árvíztől általában hosszabb-évesebb ideig vízrel borított területek.  
Sötét kék: állandón vagy az év legmagyobb részében víz alatt álló területek.  
Sötét kék: jellegi tavak.

## SZERKESZTETTE

# NGOs call for

- **Quantified, time-bound and enforceable** targets in and outside Natura 2000
- **Non-deterioration** of ecosystems to safeguard investments and long-term benefits
- Meaningful restoration for drained **peatlands** (relevant to lake Fertő)
- Scientifically valid targets for **forest ecosystems** including lake catchment areas
- Immediate **enter into force** without preconditions
- Dedicated and additional **funding**
- Public **participation** and **access to justice**



# What we can do in Hungary

## The position of our policy makers is unclear

- Communicate the importance of nature restoration in relation to our freshwater habitats including lakes towards the wide public
- The lakes are not a tourism exploitation areas
- NGO needs to work with the research communities
- Shadow national restoration strategy
- Participation in the preparation and consultation of the official national strategy
- Changing water management in the country: WATER RESILIENCE

**Restoration of lakes and their catchment areas should aim to recreate the full array of ecosystem services**

# Challenges

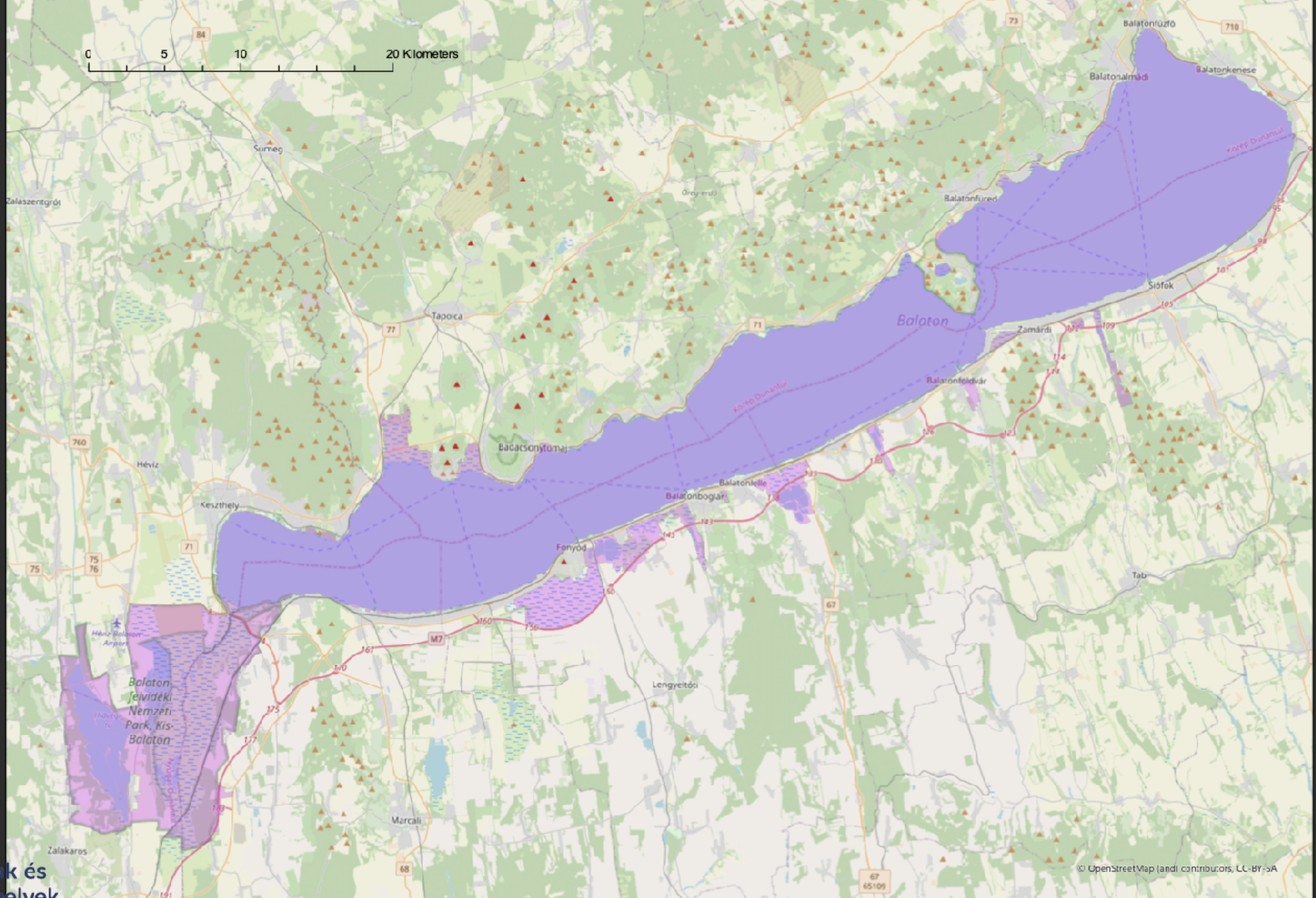
- Disappearing reed habitats
- New construction law does not recognize the importance of shore zone
- Different legal and practical location of shoreline
- 2006 LIII law about nationally important economic investments
- Lack of transparency
- Illegal construction processes



# Balaton

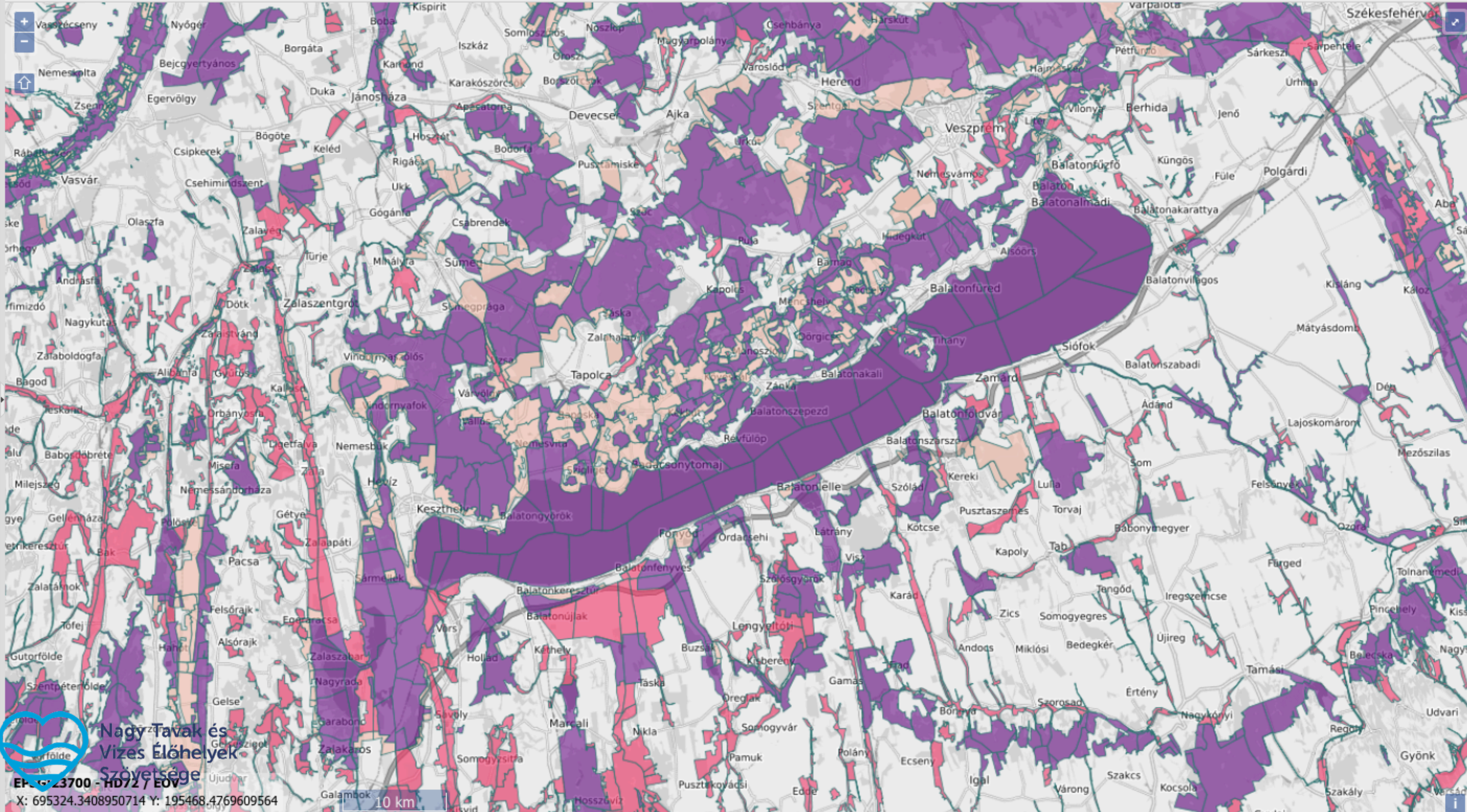
**There is a separate Working Group supported by a strategic partnership with two other CSOs**

- Maximum 5 pilot areas: values - connections - challenges
- Activating the population in the selected areas, improving habitats, raising public awareness of the importance of lakes and wetlands through examples from Lake Balaton
- Green minimum in advance of the municipal elections
- The lake as one unit! EIA should recognize overall carrying capacity
- Adaptability



Nagy Tavak és  
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**Source: Balaton-uplands National Park Directorate**




**Nagy Tavak és Vizes Élőhelyek Szövetsége**  
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# Resilient lake ecosystems

Valuing the full array of ecosystem services

# Questions & Answers

