Protection and Management of Show Caves in Slovakia

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According to the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 287/1994 on Nature and Landscape Protection, all the caves should be considered nature monuments. The most important caves are designated national nature monuments. The caves as a public property are included in the amended version of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic from 2001.

Twelve caves have been opened to the public in Slovakia to date. Their appropriate and optimal utilisation rests in monitoring of visitors’ impact on natural environment of caves, including its regulation. All the show caves are designated national nature monuments. The Ochtinska Aragonite Cave, Domica Cave, Gombasecka Cave and Jasovska Cave have been included in the World Natural Heritage since 1995, Dobsinska Ice Cave since 2000. The protection and management of the show caves in Slovakia are under the responsibility of the Slovak Caves Administration in Liptovsky Mikulas – a qualified institution of nature protection of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic.