



**Closer  
to Nature**

## PRESS RELEASE

### **ČSOP opens already 70th natural site thanks to NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme: Choryně Sentinel Educational Trail near Valašské Meziříčí**

Choryně, 25 July 2015: The Czech Union for Nature Conservation (ČSOP) and its general partner NET4GAS have together made what is already the seventieth valuable natural site accessible to the general public within the framework of the Closer to Nature programme – a site known as "Choryně Sentinel" in the vicinity of Vsetín – by creating an educational trail and installing a bird-watching platform. This is already the tenth site within the programme in the Zlín Region.

The 8-hectare site known as "Choryňská stráž" (Choryně Sentinel) was declared a natural reserve in 1999. On the southern and south-eastern slope, with its extensive orchard (of mostly cherry trees), flowering meadows have been preserved, which, complemented by an oak grove and hornbeam stands, are home to numerous species of heat-loving plants and insects. Here, we find three orchid species, broomrape species, and various plants that are not actually that uncommon, but have been given rather exotic names: Saw-leaved Speedwell, *Arum cylindraceum* and *Peucedanum cervaria* (the latter known in Czech as *smldník jelení*, with a delightfully lilting series of five consecutive consonants). The old cherry orchard, in turn, has proven to be the ideal habitat for one of our most stunningly beautiful beetles - *Anthaxia candens*, or the Glowing Jewel Beetle.

The three-kilometre route leads visitors to the riverbanks of the Juhyně and Bečva, where they may, from the hiding spot of a new bird-watching platform, stealthily peek into the lives of birds and other animals, such as kingfishers, otters and beavers. Among the sights along the trail is also an outcropping of bedrock from the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras, with precious paleontological and geological findings, which was exposed by the floods in 1997.

"Our concern for the natural environment extends beyond the letter of the law and represents a matter of our corporate social responsibility. This is the guiding principle both for our responsible way of doing business and for our long-term strategy of corporate philanthropy that we have been implementing since 2007 within the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme. From the very beginning, the ČSOP has been our expert guarantor; the fact that together we have been able to make no fewer than seventy natural sites accessible to the public, drawing tens of thousands of visitors every year, is no small source of pride and pleasure to us," says Zuzana Kučerová of NET4GAS.

"The NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme is an exemplary case of unique support that has allowed the ČSOP to engage in systematic and sustained work towards familiarizing the general public with the natural treasures of our country. Through a mixture of education and entertainment, visitors find out about aspects and parts of nature right here in their own backyard that are too interesting not to deserve our attention, our care, and our collective respect," says Libor Ambrozek, ČSOP President.

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The **Czech Union for Nature Conservation** is a group of people who love nature and share an active interest in nature conservation. It currently has close to 7,000 members, some of whom hail from the ranks of professional naturalists, but others are enthusiastic volunteers, while some are adults and others are children. Everyone can help. Do you love nature? Then join us! For more information, visit [www.csop.cz](http://www.csop.cz).

**NET4GAS** is the Czech Republic's reliable and safe gas transmission system operator, pursuing the responsible policy of protecting nature and the environment for current and future generations. The commercial operations of NET4GAS are very closely connected with the issue of nature conservation, and it is this fact that underlies the firm's long-term strategy of corporate philanthropy that has been implemented within the context of the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme. Since 2007, NET4GAS has been the general partner of the Czech Union of Nature Conservation, while the firm also supports various other projects for which the slogan "Closer to Nature" is at the heart of sustainable development. For detailed information on the sites that have been opened to the general public, and for lots of additional interesting information related to nature, please visit [www.blizpriode.cz](http://www.blizpriode.cz).



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### **Overview of the 70 sites opened to the public by Czech Union for Nature Conservation under the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme**

#### **2007**

NT Klíč Valley, Svor / Česká Lípa  
NT Hloučela Biocorridor, Prostějov  
Opičák, Liberec  
Jelenice, Pozořice / Brno-venkov  
Myslík Quarry, Myslík / Frýdek-Místek  
NT Milovice Observation Post, Milovice / Nymburk

#### **2008**

NT Footpaths in the Beskid Foothills, Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem / Frýdek-Místek  
NT A Forest Full of Senses, Krásná Lípa / Děčín  
NT Bludov Hillside, Bludov / Šumperk  
NT VINOŘ Park – Satalice Pheasantry, Praha-VINOŘ  
Golden Hill, Bečov nad Teplou / Karlovy Vary  
Kamenec, Kamenec u Radnic / Rokycany  
NT Zvole Hummock, Zvole u Prahy  
NT Fryšták, Fryšták / Zlín  
Salamander Spring, Myslík / Frýdek-Místek  
NT Velký Košíř, Litomyšl / Svitavy  
NT Mnichov Serpentine, Prameny / Cheb  
NT Hasina Valley, Lipno / Louny  
Chlum Quarry, Srbsko / Beroun  
Mokroš Biocentre, Mořice / Prostějov  
NT Zahrady, Český Brod / Kolín  
Blahutovice Observation Post, Blahutovice / Nový Jičín  
NT Votočnice, Sázava / Benešov

#### **2009**

Rezavka, Ostrava  
Štěpán Nature Reserve, Děhylov / Ostrava  
NT Medník, Hradištko / Praha-západ  
Vladař Mountain, Vladořice / Karlovy Vary  
NT Podkovák, Lesná / Tachov  
Kudlačena, Horní Bečva / Vsetín  
Podlešák's Elm, Vimperk-Boubská / Prachatice  
Above the River, Bečov nad Teplou / Karlovy Vary

#### **2010**

Choryn Wetland Nature Reserve, Lešná / Valašské Meziříčí  
NT Water World, Lesná / Domažlice

Poustka, Pozořice / Brno-venkov  
Skalka Nature Reserve, Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem / Frýdek-Místek  
NT Sudslavice Circuit, Vimperk / Prachatice  
Žák's Hill National Nature Reserve, Cikháj / Žďár nad Sázavou  
Moses Spring - Emperor's Stone, Vesec / Liberec  
Semanín Trail, Semanín / Ústí nad Orlicí

### **2011**

NT Na cvičišti - At the Training Ground, Valašské Meziříčí / Vsetín  
Střelenská Meadow, Střelná / Teplice  
Capartice Meadows, Capartice / Domažlice  
Chlum Mountain Nature Reserve, Chlum / Karlovy Vary  
Manor Rock Natural Monument, Habrovany / Vyškov  
NT Around Vřesina, Vřesina / Opava  
NT Saint Vitus Guild, Trstěnice / Cheb

### **2012**

Litovice Pond Bird-Watching Spot, Litovice / Praha-západ  
Kolo Wetland, Slavkov / Uherské Hradiště  
NT Vidžín - Telecí potok, Vidžín / Plzeň-sever  
NT Housle, Praha-Lysolaje  
Pančava, Pozořice / Slavkov  
NT Mýto, Nedvězí / Prague  
Bohumilice Avenue, Bohumilice / Prachatice  
Ořešník, Hejnice / Liberec  
NT Heřmanice Pond, Heřmanice / Ostrava

### **2013**

Lačnov Crocuses, Lačnov / Vsetín  
NT Umíř, Plachtín / Plzeň-sever  
NT Pňov Mead, Pňov-Předhradí / Kolín  
NT St. John's Rapids, Štěchovice / Praha-západ  
Třemešské rybníky Bird-Watching Spot, Dolní Studénky / Šumperk  
Path to Sulphurous Springs, Zádveřice / Zlín

### **2014**

NT Libušín Fortification, Libušín / Kladno  
Lušová Valley, Lušová / Vsetín  
NT Zásmuky Pheasantry, Zásmuky / Kolín  
Canopy Road Beneath Hořínkova Forester's Lodge, Buchlovice / Uherské Hradiště  
NT Chlum, Nepřevázka, Mladá Boleslav  
NT Through landscape of floods, Jeseník nad Odrou / Nový Jičín  
NT Hády Quarries and Surroundings, Brno

### **2015**

NT Vesec Valley, Liberec  
NT Choryně Sentinel, Vsetín

NT = nature trail

**Find more information at [www.blizprirode.cz](http://www.blizprirode.cz)**

