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REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN  
PROSTOR

## Project: CAMP Slovenia

# MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS Alternative Models

Final Report

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Občina  
Divača



Občina  
Hrpelje-Kozina



Občina  
Ilirska Bistrica



Občina  
Izola



Občina  
Komen



Mestna občina  
Koper



Občina  
Piran



Občina  
Sežana

## **CONTENTS**

<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 LEGAL BACKGROUNDS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 KEY STUDY 1: ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREA ENTRUSTED TO THE NGO .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 MODEL 2: KRAJINSKI PARK SECOVELJSKE SOLINE (KPSS).....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 KEY STUDY 3: KRASKI ROB - PROPOSED NATURA 2000 SITE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 KEY STUDY 4: MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREA ENTRUSTED TO THE SERVICES FOR NATURE PROTECTION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>8</b>

# 1 INTRODUCTION

By joining the EU Slovenia has accepted the two most important conservation directives, namely the Birds directive and the Habitats directive. These two directives Form the framework for the designation of ecologically important areas within the Natura 2000. Following the criteria for the designation of Natura 2000 sites Slovenia has included almost 35% of its territory in the proposed Natura 2000 network. In addition there is around 8% of the territory already designated as protected area according to the national law (Natura protection law).

Despite these facts Slovenia has not developed well managed network of protected areas. The two main weak points in the system of management of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia are:

- There is no management authority for these sites
- Financing of management of these areas is not secured

The current Nature Protection Law (ZON) has introduced the following options for the management of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites:

- Constitution of the public institution, concession for the management (to the NGO or commercial organization)
- Private stewardship and management within the framework of the Institute for protection of nature

National Nature Protection Law (in the following: ZON) comprises six categories of protected areas: National, Regional, Landscape (Nature) Parks and Nature Monument, Strict Nature Reserve and Nature Reserve.

NATURA 2000 serves as a legal basis for the establishment of the Network of ecologically important areas in the entire European Union. The European Commission's Directives imposed on the EU members a series of strict legal obligations, including the necessity to conserve, within specially protected areas, the existing populations of wild birds, known as the Birds Directive. Habitat Directive: The aim of this Directive issued by the European Commission is to preserve biodiversity by maintaining or restoring natural habitats of wild animals.

There has been designated 26 SPA and 260 pSAC areas according to the Decree, issued by the Government of Slovenia and proposed to the European Commission for adoption.

The most important document for achieving ecologically favourable status is the necessity of implementation of environmental impact assessments, but there are also some other means (i.e. national planning system).

According to the Decree issued from the Government of Slovenia, a special programme for management with the potential Natura 2000 sites has to be established. The main purpose of the Decree on ecologically important areas issued by the Government of Slovenia is to provide a certain degree of protection for the species and habitats outside the Natura 2000 network.

## **Natura 2000 in the national legislation**

Due to the fact that the Natura 2000 has been introduced in Slovenia only after Slovenia has joined the European Union, amendments to the National Nature Protection Law (ZON) have been made in order to satisfy all the requirements of the Natura 2000 sites.

## **Management of Protected Areas in Slovenia**

In general, there are only a few (larger) protected areas in Slovenia which have the management body. In case of the larger sites, such as national and regional parks, the management body has been established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. There are only a few cases where the management of the protected area has been entrusted to the NGO, enterprise (business company) or some way of stewardship form.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

The project has considered the needed background for effective management with protected areas using new models for management. The goals of the project are to insure effective management of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites by proposing alternative models of management of protected areas. New partnerships for land management have been proposed. Specific goals include description models of good practice by using local communities, commercial companies NGOs and public institutions into the management of protected areas. The second part of the project is dedicated to the promotion of models including training for target groups which might take the role of the future land management authorities according to the models presented in the project.

The first part is consisted by:

- description and analysis of the four models of management of protected areas
- selection of the four model case studies
- survey of the legal background
- SWOT analysis
- writing of the report

The second part of the project is composed by preparation and implementation of the training course for the future potential managers of protected areas. To be more specific:

- preparation of the program for the training
- plan of selection of participants
- implementation of the training course
- distribution of the prepared materials
- final report and evaluation of the training course

## **3 LEGAL BACKGROUNDS**

National Nature Protection Law (ZON) has introduced new categories of potential managers of protected areas:

- concession for management of protected area to the business company or NGO,
- stewardship agreements and

- management in the frame of the state service for protection of nature.

Measures for protection of nature values are (according to ZON) as follows:

- contract for management,
- contract for maintenance and
- legal designation.

## 4 KEY STUDY 1: ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREA ENTRUSTED TO THE NGO

<http://www.skocjanski-zatok.org/>



National Law on the Nature Reserve Škocjanski zatok came into force in March 1998.

The management of the reserve has been entrusted to the biggest nature protection NGO in Slovenia, The Bird watching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia (DOPPS).

### SWOT Analysis

#### Strengths:

- Effective management is enabled by skilful staff
- NGO is successful in engaging public support
- Effective promotion of the protected area

#### Weaknesses:

- Management dependent on unsecure sources
- Legal status of the manager (obstacle in application for major development projects)
- Weak links to other sectors of civil society

#### Opportunities:

- Sympathies of public towards NGO
- NGOs are attractive for donors and sponsors

#### Threats:

- Uncoordinated approach in public

## 5 MODEL 2: KRAJINSKI PARK SECOVELJSKE SOLINE (KPSS)

[www.kpss.soline.si](http://www.kpss.soline.si)

### MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREA ENTRUSTED TO THE BUSINESS COMPANY



National Decree on the Secovlje Salina Nature Park came into force in April 2001. The management of the reserve has been entrusted to the business company, SOLINE Pridelava soli d.o.o.

#### SWOT Analysis

##### Strengths:

- Effective distribution and implementation of management tasks
- Experiences in management of the company can be applied also in the park
- Financial resources partially secured
- No additional bureaucratic and budgetary requirements to the state

##### Weaknesses:

- “Economical logics” applied in protected area
- Mistrust of the part of the general public towards business company as the manager

##### Opportunities:

- Investments into conservation pay out by improving the profile of the company
- Direct profits generated by effective management of the park and tourism incomes

##### Threats:

- Uncertain long-term future due to political and economic changes of the company

## 6 KEY STUDY 3: KRASKI ROB - PROPOSED NATURA 2000 SITE

[www.zrs-kp.si](http://www.zrs-kp.si)

### MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREA THROUGH STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH LANDOWNERS



Through the financing of the ELJ funded LIFE Nature project, several stewardship agreements have been signed with landowners in order to secure long-term and sustainable land uses of the Karst landscapes.



Figure 1: Map of the project area (the Karstic edge)

### SWOT Analysis

#### Strengths:

- Land owner is the land manager
- Awareness on the importance of the lands for conservation raised
- No additional bureaucratic and budgetary requirements to the state

#### Weaknesses:

- Legal obstacles (designation is needed for financial incentives from the state)
- Mistrust of the part of the landowners and local community
- Private interests before common goals

Opportunities:

- New partnerships
- New opportunities

Threats:

- No coordination between local interests and local communities

## **7 KEY STUDY 4: MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREA ENTRUSTED TO THE SERVICES FOR NATURE PROTECTION**



ZRSVN OE is the legal nature protection service and comprises 6 geographically distributed units. It forms a part of the state formed institution. No practical example of this institution as manager of protected area in Slovenia already exists.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

- Excellent knowledge of the sites and legal backgrounds
- High level of management in theory
- Experiences in promotion, communication and interpretation

Weaknesses:

- Financial resources
- No possibilities for new employments (staff required)

Opportunities:

- New organizational schemes for these state services enable generation of their own independent funding

Threats:

- Too theoretical approach

### **Training workshop for the active and potential managers of protected areas**

The training workshop took place between 14 and 15 October in the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park. There were 28 participants at the workshop. The presentations addressed the issues of designation and management of protected areas, presentation of alternative four management models both for areas and Natura 2000 sites and the tasks of ranger services in these areas.



On the second day the concrete management issues were presented out in the field. Field work was concluded by the discussion on particular management issues, such as provision of services for visitors of these areas. Lectures were given by the representatives of the Sečovlje Salina Nature Park and Triglav National Park.

All participants were informed also about the UNEP-MAP activities, the role of the Barcelona Convention and about the forthcoming activities within the MAP meeting in Portorož. The evaluation of the course was undertaken immediately after the workshop. In principle, the responses from participants were very positive although there were some suggestions how to upgrade the workshop.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

Legal backgrounds for establishment of four alternative models of management of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia have been presented. The key studies include: management entrusted to the NGO, to the business company, private stewardship model and management entrusted to the service for nature protection (state institution).

It can be concluded that legal background for establishment of all above mentioned alternative models for management of protected areas in Slovenia exists.

Securing efficient financial resources is the common problem for effective management in all examined case studies. Business company is perhaps less dependent on the above issue of financial sources, while NGO has to be pointed out as the effective in terms of gaining sufficient human resources for management. Private stewardship model proved as effective in terms of the fact that land owners are at the same time also the managers. Services for nature protection are effective in terms of theoretical knowledge and experiences in communication, while they are facing problems in securing sufficient financial and human resources.