

Action plan for preparation for verification of the National Park "Durmitor" according to PAN Parks criteria



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NP “Durmitor” management

Basic characteristics of NP “Durmitor” management

NP “Durmitor” was proclaimed National Park in 1952. This NP management together with other three national parks of Montenegro is conducted in accordance with the Law on National Parks (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro No. 47/91). NP “Durmitor” was registered in 1980 with the UNESCO’s world heritage list in accordance with the Convention on World Heritage. Since the river Tara canyon was registered in 1977 in the List of International Biosphere Reservations a part of the Tara river canyon within the NP “Durmitor” has a triple protection: as a part of the National Park, as a world natural heritage and as a biosphere reservation.

In 1997 Physical Plan for Areas for Special Purposes of NP “Durmitor” (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro No 20/97) was adopted, which is valid until 2015, and in 2005, based on the Physical Plan, the Law on Living Environment (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro No. 12/96) and the Law on National Parks (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro No. 47/91), Protection and Development Program for the National Park “Durmitor” was adopted for the period 2005-2010. The National Park is governed by the Public Company “National Parks of Montenegro”, and its branch National Park “Durmitor” in Žabljak.

The Park management is conducted based on annual plans developed on the basis of NP “Durmitor” Protection and Development Program for the period 2005-2010.

Basic characteristics of the Physical Plan for NP “Durmitor” Area for Special Purposes

According to data from the Physical Plan, the Park covers 34.000 ha¹. The Park area is divided in 3 levels of protection which encompasses

- 1. level – high level protection – 3.400 ha
- 2. level – special protection – 25.400 ha
- 3. level – liberal protection – 5.200 ha

Within a protection level wildlife refuges are defined and divided as follows:

- General wildlife refuges
- Special wildlife refuges

Apart from wildlife refuges, natural monuments are defined as well as follows:

- Geological
- Geomorphologic
- Paleontologic

¹ In different documents information on the Park surface vary from 33.000-39.000 ha

- Caving
- Lakes
- Wells, springs
- Waterfalls
- Ponds
- Memorial monuments

Objects of culture are defined from cultural aspect and are divided as follows:

- Churches
- Monasteries
- Necropolis, ancient towns and other

Zones of environmental units are also defined.

Basic characteristics of NP "Durmitor" Protection and Development Program for the period 2005-2010

In NP “Durmitor” Protection and Development Program for the period 2005-2010 the introduction part shows the condition of the National Park and the document is divided into the following:

- General information
- Data on natural and living environment
- Biological basis of NP “Durmitor” protection and development
- Zoning
- Activities in the Park
- NP “Durmitor” natural resources protection and management

General information

General information about the Park encompasses data on status of the area and the Park borders as well as determining the protected area.

Data on natural and living environment

Data on natural and living environment are divided into the key natural and social characteristics of the area such as:

- Geology
- Relief
- Canyons
- Surfaces
- Mountain crests
- Climate
- Hydrology and hydro-geology

- Pedology
- Historical factors
- Anthropogeneous factors
- Scenery
- Categorization of anthropogeneous and other influences on the area of Durmitor
- Research activities

Biological basis of NP “Durmitor” protection and development

Biological basis of NP “Durmitor” protection and development consist of :

- Flora and vegetation
- Lichen
- Moss
- Mushrooms
- Insects
- Amphibians and reptiles
- Birds
- Game
- Fish
- Forest

Zoning

Purpose of land and protection regulations are represented in zoning. In that Chapter special attention is paid to forest zoning while other zoning was more developed in the Physical Plan.

Activities in the Park

Most attention is paid to forestry. This section presents condition of forests, harmful factors influencing forests and forest protection and economic valorization exploitation plan. Apart from forestry, great attention is paid to tourism, which is divided into the following sections:

- Pick-nick tourism
- Recreation-sport tourism
- Health tourism
- Village tourism
- Cultural-educational tourism

NP “Durmitor” natural resources protection and management

This Chapter presents general measures and tasks to be conducted in the NP “Durmitor” along with other measures and activities per specific areas in addition, among which emphasis is put on the following:

- Tasks and activities on forest eco-systems protection and management
- Tasks, measures and activities on land protection and management
- Tasks and activities on water management
- Planning, construction and designing of NP “Durmitor” area
- Tasks and activities in the field of physical and urban planning
- Tasks and activities on construction and development of construction land
- Tasks and activities on development of recreation infrastructure
- Monitoring
- Code of Conduct and Business

Apart from that protective measures and activities aimed at special culture-historical values of NP “Durmitor” are presented and are as follows:

- Monuments of nature protection
- Speleological objects protection
- Land protection
- Construction heritage protection
- Monuments of culture protection.

Proposition for the activities for meeting PAN Parks criteria

General background

NP “Durmitor” is one of a few national parks in Europe which can meet the requirements for certification in line with PAN Parks criteria, but for improvement of the Park management certain activities need to be conducted. These activities will refer to the amendment of the “Management Plan” mostly relating to the requirements and PAN Parks criteria.

Main requirements refer to:

- Defining the zone without commercial exploitation
- Management Plan redefining and inclusion of the key elements from the Physical Plan
- Visitors Management Plan Preparation
- Preparation of a joint strategy for tourism development with local partners

Definition of zones with no commercial exploitation of resources

One of key PAN Parks criteria is the zone without resources commercial exploitation, which needs to encompass at least 10.000 ha. This zone needs to be ecologically comprehensive (must not be divided in many unconnected parts) and it needs to encompass representative key eco-systems and importance of protected area. In that zone visit is allowed in accordance with the Park objectives. According to the current condition of NP “Durmitor” this criteria has not been met, but there is a chance to meet these requirements by zoning redefining in the national Park. Framework proposal of the zone without resources commercial exploitation is presented in the Appendix, but it needs to be additionally improved and reconciled, and resolve the matters of fragmentation.

Redefinition of the Management Plan and inclusion of key elements from Physical Planning

Management Plan needs to be adapted to the international criteria for management plans. Management is currently being covered by two documents - Physical Plan of NP “Durmitor” Area for Special Purposes and NP “Durmitor” Protection and Development Program for the period 2005-2010.

The Management Plan should also include the vision and objectives of the Park, zoning and according to that define management activities. In that respect the zone without resources commercial exploitation needs to be incorporated and protective measures defined.

We propose the Management Plan be put into a logical framework as shown in the Table below.

	Success indicators	Time plan	Assumptions and risks
Vision			
Protection goals ...			
Development goals ...			
Presentation and visit goals			
Policies/ measures • ...			
Activities • ...			

Table 1: Logical framework of activities and goals

Apart from that, the Management Plan needs to be improved in the sphere of training of the Park management staff; hiring expert staff also needs to be projected in accordance with the Park’s potentials. Monitoring needs to be defined and its implementation, starting as soon as possible. It is necessary to intensify cooperation with local communities and local partners who also need to be trained in sense of joint goals of the Park and development activities. In that respect, efforts should also be focused on finding options for engagement of donators and international projects for the purpose of protection and development of the area. More attention should be paid to development of agriculture and additional activities in the villages and inclusion of agriculture in tourist activities referring to work in and about the Park.

Visitors Management Plan Preparation

NP “Durmitor” has a well developed tourist infrastructure. Mountain roads are marked and well maintained and in the Park area there are more objects where visitors can stay overnight. The Park has the information center in the Park Management Office in Žabljak. Tourist activities in the Park are well regulated and most of the regulatory mechanisms are under authority of the Park Management. Erosion occurs at certain

points of the ski paths which were not covered with grass during construction, which is the biggest problem at the moment. Apart from ski paths, illegal construction of tourist facilities next to the ski paths is also an issue for the reason that accommodation facilities are usually placed far from the ski paths.

Therefore, good basis do exist for preparation of Visitors Management Plan and they need to be utilized. Visitors Management Plan should be based on the current infrastructure which might be improved at some points. Major imperfection of NP “Durmitor” refers to not having sufficient amount of promotion activities and materials aimed for visitors. Thus, we propose that within the Visitors Management Plan a map of NP “Durmitor” be prepared with all information on main values of the area, so that the visitors are provided with adequate information and services. Apart from that, the visitors need to be informed about the code of conduct in the National Park. This information can also be placed on the current Internet page of the National Park. In preparation of the Visitors Management Plan tourist workers and local communities need to take an active role and participation.

Preparation of the joint strategy for development of tourism together with local partners

Strategy for tourism development is a process which will need most time and effort engaged. According to what we have learnt, the Park Management has been having a good cooperation with tourist organizations in the fields of rafting and fishing on the river Tara, with Tourist Organization of Žabljak, Forest Salvation Service, local governances and High School “Žabljak” – tourist –catering department. Greatest challenge will be to stimulate and organize employees in the tourist industry in border areas and establishment of tourist organizations in other municipalities, where tourist offer has not been established yet.

Therefore, it is necessary to find and develop mechanisms for tourism development planning in a wide area, which would go in line with goals of NP “Durmitor” and thus consequently enable development of wide area. In that process active participation of all interest groups in this field is necessary. Communication between the partners will be improved and consequently result with better development opportunities and thus stop depopulation of these areas. International organizations working on the territory of Montenegro should be included in the process as well.

Activities according to the schedule plan

The schedule plan will mostly depend on opportunities and time of NP “Durmitor” and public company “National Parks of Montenegro” employees. Namely, capacities of the institutions are pretty limited due to overwhelming work duties of the employees. If these institutions would be provided support when preparing needed documentation, we believe that the planned activities could be conducted within the time framework presented in the Table below.

Table 1: Schedule plan

Activities/month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Determining the zone without resources commercial exploitation	■	■																						
Management Plan redefining and inclusion of key elements from the Physical Plan	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■													
Visitors Management Plan preparation					■	■	■	■	■	■	■													
Preparation of a joint strategy for tourism development together with local partners							■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Conclusion

NP “Durmitor” is one of a few national parks in Europe which can meet requirements for certification according to PAN Parks criteria.

In order to meet the requirements the following activities need to be conducted which in the first place refer to:

- definition of the zone with no commercial exploitation
- redefinition of the Management Plan and inclusion of key elements from the Physical Plan
- Visitors Management Plan Preparation
- Preparation of the joint strategy for tourism development together with local partners.

In ideal circumstances this program could be realized in two years, but only provided that personnel and financial support is provided to the Public Company National Parks of Montenegro and NP “Durmitor”. Both of these institutions lack personnel and apart from that they do not have adequate equipment (computers, software, overhead projectors...) which would help them perform their tasks successfully.

Appendix 2: Framework contents of Management Plan

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

- Basic information on NP “Durmitor”
- NP “Durmitor” in international context
- Vision of NP “Durmitor”

CONDITION OF NP “DURMITOR”

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

- Planning instruments in Montenegro
- Authorities of public administration and institutions
- Organizational structure of the National Park

NATURAL VALUES OF PROTECTED AREA

- Geology
- Relief
- Canyons
- Surfaces
- Mountain crests
- Climate
- Hydrology and hydro-geology
- Pedology
- Habitats
- Flora
- Fauna
- Forests
- Natural values

LIVING ENVIRONMENT, INHABITANTS AND CULTURAL VALUES

- Demography
- Historical factors
- Anthropogeneous factors
- Scenery
- Cultural values
- Activities on NP “Durmitor” area

VISITORS AND TOURISM

- Infrastructure
- Carrying capacities – tourism carrying capacities assessment
- Analysis on tourist activities and influence on nature

CORE GOALS OF PARK MANAGEMENT

GENERAL GOALS

SPECIFIC GOALS

- Protection goals
- Presentation and visit goals
- Development goals

ZONING

- General zoning to zone without resources commercial exploitation and border zone
- Zoning and activities per zone

PLAN OF ACTIVITIES ON DURMITOR

Contents of action plans

Action plans review

MONITORING

**PARK MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION, FINANCIAL ASPECTS AND COST
ESTIMATION**

Park management organization

Financial projection for the Management Plan

Incomes

Costs

Basis for preparation of annual operating plans