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INTEGRAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AS A TOOL FOR INTEGRAL PROTECTION OF NATIONAL PARK “MAVROVO” IN R. MACEDONIA

Makedonka Stojanovska, Nataša Lozanovska¹

Abstract: This paper analyzes the present situation concerning the management of the national park “Mavrovo” in R. of Macedonia and gives the tracks for its future management according to EU regulative.

According to the Law on Nature in R. Macedonia, which is harmonized to EU regulative, the national parks are obligated to make an integral management plan. In that direction the process of establishing integral management plan of NP “Mavrovo” has been started and as the new Law regulation requires it well have a strong participative approach. Application of the integral management plan will secure also a better protection of the area because the local population is involved directly in the process. They are going to be educated about the importance of the forest area and the biodiversity, cultural heritage and other components within this area. Also, the income derived from the national park area, and the attachments that people form with the area, often become an important component of the local community and all stakeholders.

At this moment it can be said that the integral management plan is needed because it will balance economic development in the area with the need for conservation and protection of its unique natural resources.

Key words: nature, protection, management, legislative.

1 INTRODUCTION

We need to analyze the present situation with the management of the national parks and gives the tracks for future management of the national park according to EU regulative. Protected areas play an important role in the evolving challenge of maintaining a sustainable world. Not only do they provide refuges for biological diversity, but they play an equally significant role in the changing economic and social basis of local

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communities and nations. That protected areas are increasingly becoming a source of tourist revenue is not surprising. The income derived from the protected area, and the attachments people form with the area, often become an important component of the local community. However, the cultural and economic effects of protected areas and their management may disproportionately impact the local community, perhaps leading to resentment toward the park. Actions affecting the protected area may be controversial because of those effects. Conducting consultation and achieving the support of local constituencies will be essential to the success of any protected area planning effort.

The objective of preserving natural areas is frequently impacted by the desire to encourage recreational use, particularly with respect to government goals for economic development and the role of nature-based tourism or ecotourism within those programs. The two goals of preservation and use are frequently in conflict, with disagreement about which should receive priority. Protected areas represent a legitimate and important source of income and stability, but the increasing recognition and capacity of protected areas to generate revenue can lead to economic dependency, which in turn increases pressures to maximize financial returns. In the face of this pressure, protected area managers still must act as guardians of the values for which the area was established, and as well as the biophysical and social impacts of increased tourism. These are the kinds of contentious contexts in which protected area managers increasingly, but inevitably, conduct and implement planning processes. It is through planning that managers can provide not only technical expertise, but also interact collaboratively with affected publics to ensure support and implementation of actions to protect the natural resource values of protected areas.

2 INFORMATION

Park profile

The National Park “Mavrovo” was founded with the law regulations of R. Macedonia in 1994, in which were included and named as protected areas the place around the territory of Mavrovo and its forest land. According this law NP “Mavrovo” is founded because of its special natural beauties, historical and scientifically meaning of the forest and the forest landscapes around Mavrovo.

The NP Mavrovo is located on the mountains: Sar Planina, Korab and Bistra. The NP “Mavrovo” is located in the Group of Sar Planina Mountains and it is part of the Sar-Pines Sistem. According to the last border setting it takes parts from the Sar, the whole massif of Korab, Montaigne Desat and Bistra. Its geographical impalement is between 41° 30” and 41° 52” northern latitude and between 20° 30” and 20° 45” eastern from Grinich. The NP “Mavrovo” lays between the two parallels that mark the area of the subtropical climate of Macedonia, in its modified Mediterranean climate in the southern part Povardarie. The primary motive for foundation of the Park was the previous foundation of the artificial lake Mavrovo Lake and its hydro energetic system. The natural beauties of this area make these ideas come true. Also the Sarplanina group of Mountains has given its part in foundation of this nature. The mountains from this group together make one natural orthographic area made of different orthographic integrity. In the group of Sara Mountains there are included several beautiful mountains of Macedonia, and few of the most beautiful mountain pastures in the Balkan. With the Lake Mavrovo one of the most complicated hydro technical problems is been solved. The flow of the river is been

changed from the Adriatic sea to the Aegean sea where the hydro-electrical centrals are been build. The altitudes of the park are truly developed; it has all needed characteristics of high Montaigne relief.

The main geographical and orthographical position of the park is from Mediterranean way that includes Mountain Korab and Sara, but excludes Bistra and Blajnica. The lowest altitude point in the park is located in the flow of river Radika with 600 m absolute height, and the highest altitude point is on the Mountain Korab with 2764 m. On today's territory of the park there are 52 Mountain picks with height over 2000m above sea level officially marked on the maps.

Forest fund

According to the last forest inventory in Republic of Macedonia, the total area of the NP "Mavrovo" is 73 088 ha, from which 30 920 are covered with forests and it is been divided in 6 forest areas: "Mavrovo", "Bistra I", "Bistra II", "Desat", "Korab", and "Gorna Radika".

The wood mass of NP "Mavrovo" is 4152789 m, from which 2555987 or 61, 5% belongs to high quality wood and 1597802 m or 38, 5% to low quality wood. The biggest amount of wood mass has the forest enterprise unit "Mavrovo" with 1247247 m or 30 % from the total wood mass of NP "Mavrovo". The annual growth is 70638 or 54, 1 %

From the whole area under forests of 30919, 24 ha, 27269, 08 ha or 88, 2% of them belong in forests and only 3650, 15 ha or 11, 8% are left for the forest land. With high quality wood there are 10067, 06 ha or 36, 9 %, and with low quality wood there are 17120, 05 ha or 63, 1 %. The greatest area belongs to forest enterprise unit "Desat" with 6175, 91 ha or 20 % of the whole area.

Why review the management plan?

It is necessary to review the plan in order to adapt the park's management orientation to current realities and challenges. Moreover, because of major changes in the Law on Nature where the national parks and protected areas are obligated to establish a new management plan according to EU regulations. The issues regarding ecological integrity, visitor experience, dialogue with local communities, partnerships with regional players, and finalization of heritage presentation will also receive prominent treatment in the preliminary management plan, which will be presented at the public consultation. The park's great challenge is to preserve its ecological integrity while providing visitors with a quality experience and contributing to the public's education. The park must also take into account regional communities' social and economic realities.

The major themes addressed

Preserving the ecological integrity of the park's ecosystems and cultural resources.
Presenting our cultural and natural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations.

Providing a safe, enriching, and high-quality visitor experience while respecting cultural and natural resources.

Offering activities that are appropriate for a national park.

Offering interesting and stimulating educational activities.

Involving local communities, organizations and visitors in the preservation of the park's ecological integrity, the protection of its cultural resources and the presentation of this heritage.

Supporting efforts to preserve biodiversity in the Mavrovo's greater ecosystem.
Contributing to the success of regional tourism.

Management plan

"Mavrovo" has a set a priority for future working (preparing an area plan according to the Law on Nature preservation section 103)

It has been formed a Tim for preparation of the Plan, and simultaneously preparation of the estimation of the value of the park had been started. E.g. Preparation of the management plans.

According to the Law on Nature preservation they need to prepare a Study on the subject: Other alternative sources of financing the protected area of the National Park "Mavrovo". "Mavrovo" according the Law regulations is planning to hire an independent advisory consultant from the area of protection of the environment, for coordination and implementation of projects for biodiversity, development, donations and grants and ctr.

"Mavrovo" in its territory has its own safari park for (*Cervus elaphus*). If we know that "Mavrovo" fulfils al its obligations, there is an existence of optimal conditions for continuance of the estimated measures, there are optimal conditions for continuance of the sustainable usage, management, and raising of the plantations in "Mavrovo". Because of their great condition, as well for the optimalisation of the full growth and development of the forest and the rest of the living flora and fauna they proposed a suitable protection measures but also, existence of all other measures.

There are few protected areas and they represent special a recognizable units, and with them they manage to control the activities in the different parts of the Park. According to the new Law on Nature preservation it is predicted a new division of the park in four areas.

- Strictly protected area
- Zone of active management
- Zone of sustainable management
- Protective vest

And in the new plan that comes they are obligated to make new area division. In the new management plan also they need to make several changes like for example full control over the unloved harvesting and transport of all kinds of forest products (they need to make regulations about proper usage).

According to the new Law on Nature preservation "Mavrovo" has been taken under concession the management of the Mavrovo Lake and River Radika. According to the agreement for concession they are obligated every year to increase the number of lake fauna with (*Salmo farioides* Kar) and with (*Salmo Montenegritis*) with purpose of conservation and protection of those species, and protection of the biodiversity of the waters in NP "Mavrovo". Protection of the Land fauna makes a great deal in the plan for protection, The Park has made a one year program for their protection. They had predicted health protection measures with help of the local veterinary center.

A physical protection of the park is been predicted with the plan for protection from the greatest treats and destructors of the flora and fauna in the Park, they have a

great help and coordination with the local police. They need to implement and carry out the plan on Fire protection. The protection of the park is in great danger of those who fish and hunt without permission, and also from the illegal logging.

The education of the employees makes a great difference in the better management of the park. The park employees will be educated on protection from forest fires (first aid after injury, protection of the fireman's and ctr.). According to the Law on nature preservation they are obligated to found security service thru reconstruction of the one that already exist. The hired security workers need to be trained properly for their work task. They need to implement proper education to the other employees in Administration on high tech working and proper registration of the forest, as well as taking courses on English Language. Knowing the fact that the digital data processing thru usage of the software cooled GIS is becoming a necessity for proper presentation, analyzing and collecting data, NP "Mavrovo" are planning educate two employees for its usage. These activities are planned to be completed in the frames of this project, "For environment preservation, economic development and promotion of Eco-sustainable tourism of NP "Mavrovo" and thru the walleys of River Radika".

Protection of rare and endangered Species, and preservation of the habitats and cultural and historical legacies

According to the Law on Natural preservation act 103 NP "Mavrovo" had prepared an operational plan for Fire protection, and it is fulfilling all its duties and activities (direct and indirect) which are predicted with this plan. The protection of the natural and historical legacy plays an important role in this management plan. There are many objects that are named as cultural heritage and with that they are protected with the Law (monasteries, churches, old houses and ctr.).

The security employees will get a proper training on getting public services on the tourists like for example explaining the facts about the park to the visitors (about, foundation, borders of the park, the existing flora and fauna).

The preparation of a new systematization of NP "Mavrovo" is on its way in which are predicted changes in the marketing-communication sector and services to the visitors, they will deeply develop those issues. They will prepare informational places, road pointers and recreational paths. Many of the employees will be trained for working as a tourist guides. They will increase the coordination with the sky-centre and the other tourist's facilities with one purpose increase of the tourist's offer of "Mavrovo".

According to de Law on Nature preservation Act 74 NP "Mavrovo" does an integral management of the whole territory. In that are included the caves and their protection as nature legacy. In that direction they are planning to make a program of visiting and sight seeing of the cave, who will include also the measures for its protection, and the conditions that need to be respected for its full preservation. If everything is going to be fulfilled than they can get the license of caves proper management. With that license they will have the chance for enlarging the tourists offer for cultural educational and tourist-recreational offer of the National Park. If they can manage to realize that, they can get other way to finance NP "Mavrovo".

If they constitute a web page they according to the needs for proper and easy information, with following the World trends, they can enlarge the number of the potential visitors, with giving them all the information's they need to know about NP "Mavrovo".

In order to get a new and improved infrastructure of the tourists offer they are planning to build tourist-recreational paths around the Lake Mavrovo and River Radika, and around the monastery St. Jovan Bigorski.

They are also planning to build mountain paths, to rebuild few tour locations, like picnic places, promenades, fountains, nature houses and information tables (maps and ctr.).

Volunteering and other activities

The volunteering of the local population and the citizenship sector, that are been implemented partially, at the beginning of their education for the possibilities for development of the rural tourism, thru accommodation of groups of visitors and production and selling of healthy food, protection of the flora and the fauna in the places where they live, thru rising of the public awareness, and their participation in working activities like forestation of bear land and other activities.

All the time there are special happenings (promotions), and ctr. that helps increasing the amount of visitors and admirers of the park. The educational activities come from the idea that all the educational facilities can establish educational teaching and classes on the territory of the park, all with purpose better and easier understanding of the matter about nature from the students. Like for example:

- Elementary schools teaching in the nature (Biology, zoology)
- High schools (Schools for working in the nature, from the area of forestry, ecology, hunting and ctr.)
- Highly educational institutions (Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Natural Science, Pharmacy Faculty and ctr.)

NP “Mavrovo” would like to help within its own range to all interest educational institutions for studying in practise, in the area that is in the studying interest of the student.

NP “Mavrovo” would like to help to all initiatives for children’s fun and education like for example the children’s happening, the building of the “Snow City” in winter.

Obligatory monitoring of the park

NP “Mavrovo” it is obligated, thru properly trained people and security service to be on the field and look after the park and the activities within during 24 ours a day. The security activities are compound of:

- The numbered and the health state of the parks fauna, with special accent of protection of the indentured species with the Law on hunting (bears, wild cats, reindeers, eagles and ctr.) and to look out for all the animals that live in the parks territory.
- They need to make monitoring of the total complex picture of the flora, the fitocenosis communities, their health condition, their proper development and ctr.
- In the critical period, during the summer, they need to make monitoring from specially selected strategic places, 24 ours a day, from the danger of appearance of forest fires (like the greater destructors of the complete flora and fauna in the park).
- It has been predicted full time monitoring of the numbered and the health condition of the realest in the nature species of (*Cervus elaphus*), how it is readapted

in the nature and recognition and elimination with time of the predators, and protection from the anthropogenic factor (people who hunt with out permit ion).

Activities in the field of scientific research

The need for scientific researches is arising from the fact that the flora and the fauna in the park is very reach with various species, thanks to the developed orography and the great configuration of the mountings in the park. But it is not properly researched, and the information's about it are in small amount, not enough fragmented. Knowing the fact that in Mavrovo there are from 1200 to 1300 different kinds of plant species, classified in 295 subspecies and 87 families, there are been predicted activities in that purpose for new researches and systematisation on few more important groups of plants, that we consider are not enough researched, and we can number the endemic and the relict, the glacial relicts, and the group of rear plants, fungous, and animals that live in the parks territory.

Because of the fact that the official web site of Republic of Macedonia stands that in 1996 are made special satellite measurements of the altitudes of the mountings, and they have come to unconfirmed conclusion that the altitude of the mountain pick "Korab" it is not 276 m above the see level but it is 100 meters more high. If we manage to prove these measurements that is 100 meters higher, that will represent a sensation in the scientific world, because of that we will have opportunities for new and much greater scientific research. Lead by that fact we will consult and we will hire recognised scientific institutions, so they can properly rediscover the truth about that measurement.

Ways and conditions for giving parts of the protected areas under concession of legal and private persons

According to the Law on nature preservation Act 135 annex 6 they are obligated to give permit ion for doing some business actions. Is that going to influence somehow on the flora and the fauna, locally or wider, will that destroy the natural and the landscape values of the park? After they will give or not their permit ion for business actions, The Government is the one that have the final word for issuing that permit ion for business actions in protected area..

3 CONCLUSION

According to all these above mentioned activities that the NP Mavrovo is going to complete, it is more than obvious that some radical steps going to be taken. Partnership, cooperation and ongoing dialogue between the park and regional players will have a contribution to the region's sustainable development, the preservation of its biodiversity and the success of the regional tourism.

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