



AlpNaTour – Integration of recreation and tourism concerns to Natura 2000 management planning processes to support sustainability in the alpine area

DEMOCRATIC DEALING WITH PROBLEMS IN NATURA 2000 PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ALPINE SPACE AND A CASE STUDY FROM SLOVENIA

By: Kovac, M., Golob, A., Polansek, B., Skudnik, M.
Emails: marko.kovac@gozdis.si; saso.golob@gozdis.si; barbara.polansek@gozdis.si; mitja.skudnik@gozdis.si



Aims of this presentation

- To justify the role of democratic dealing with problems in Natura 2000 planning and management
- To present the state of art in the field of democratic dealing with problems in the countries of the Alpine Space
- To present how the procedure was conducted in Slovenia
- To present the basic guidelines for a potentially successful democratic procedure



A) Backgrounds

Although the idea of Natura 2000 is in concert with the paradigm of sustainable development (wellbeing and healthy environment of this and future generations) its implementation generates a lot of problems. Instead of being a challenge or opportunity, Natura 2000 is generally considered a hindrance.

Evidences:

- Considerably slow progress in the implementation of Natura 2000
- Increasing numbers of lawsuits in the EU member states and threats with them
- Fear and disappointment of the local population



Factors:

- According to the reports addressing Natura 2000 and to experiences from the field the conflicts are due to:
- Different objectives of landowners and the sectors operating in the environment at one side and nature conservation at the other
 - Unsuitable procedures used at the occasion of designation of Natura 2000 sites and in Natura 2000 planning in general
 - Lack of knowledge of all engaged (authorities, stakeholders)
 - Other



B) Democratic dealing with problems (DDP) and Natura 2000 Legislation

What is DDP:
An instrument that has been suggested and promoted world-wide to improve communicating, to increase public awareness, to maximize the total benefits of the environment and to enhance the social acceptance of environmental stewardship.

Objectives of DDP:

- To improve a conflict situation or
- To come to a reconciled agreement.



DDP – compound process

DDP is not a single process but it associates two closely related activities:

- PARTICIPATION addresses the articulation of interests and the creation of such a working environment in which consensus can be achieved
- CONFLICT MANAGEMENT strives to define, to acquaint with, to aggregate interests and finally to get agreements



DDP		
COMMUNICATION	CONSULTATION	CONSENSUS
POLL SURVEY INQUIRY PUBLIC HEARING	WORKSHOP ADVISORY GROUP	COLLABORATIVE LEARNING MEDIATION NEGOTIATION ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
PARTICIPATION		
	CONFLICT MANAGEMENT	

Contrariwise to the environmental acts of the countries of the AlpNatour project (e.g. spatial planning, EIA, SEIA, Water management) the acts, specifically addressing Natura 2000 **DO NOT COMMAND** any form of democratic approach to planning, management, etc.



C) Slovene approach to Natura 2000 site management

Aim of the experiment:

- To conduct the collaborative planning procedure in the real environment (nature, society, economy)
- To overrule a general hypothesis that collaborative approach to planning and management is a waste of time
- To gain the responses of all engaged in the planning procedure
- To deepen our knowledge and to gain experiences that will assist in improving DDP



The procedure:

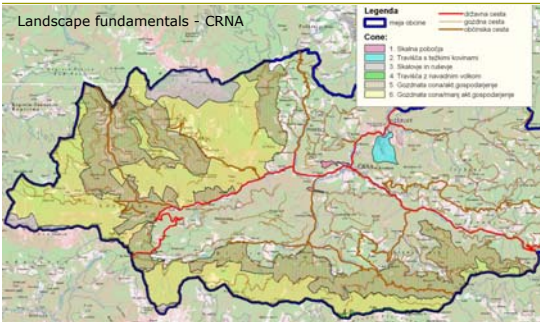
1. Defining objectives (acquainting with the development problems, achieving consent on landscape fundamentals plans enlosing the Natura 2000 sites)
2. Defining target groups (stakeholders =Authorities, Sectors operating in the environment e.g. forestry, agricultu-re, hunt, nature conservation, NGO's e.g. representatives of sport associations of alpinism, mountainbiking, snowmobiling,.. Landowners)
3. Sending out official invitations
4. Defining the procedure (equality, objectivity,
5. Organizing 1st. workshop
 - Presenting the aims of the project to all participants

- Acquainting with other similar projects in the area
- Presenting the objectives of the workshop (pinpointing problems, methods/ways of their solving, opportunities)
- Organizing the work in groups

6. Data analysis and preparation of landscape fundamentals (Office)

Problemi	Izzivi - načini reševanja	Priložnosti
Ekonomski Socialni Prostorsko-okoljski Komunikacijsko-informacijski Kompleksni, znanje, etika	Zakonodaja Strukturni skladi (EU, SLO) Delavnice - pridobivanje znanja Participacija deležnikov	Ekoturizem Trženje "narave" Trženje blagovnih znamk Kmečki turizem Vodenje obiskovalcev s posebnimi potrebami Razvoj rekreativnih dejavnosti (kolesarjenje, jahanje, pohodništvo)

Landscape fundamentals - CRNA





1.Cona - Travišča z navadnim volkom (20 ha)
 1 zone: alpine meadows with *Nardus stricta*

Habitatni tipi/Habitat types:

(6230*) Vrsto bogata travišča s prevladujočim navadnim volkom (*Nardus stricta*) na silikatnih tleh v montanskem pasu (in submontanskem pasu v celinskem delu Evrope); (8220) Silikatna skalnata pobočja z vegetacijo skalnih razpok
 (4060) Alpske in borealne resave; (6150) Alpska in borealna travišča na silikatnih tleh

Vrste/Species:

rušavec, kocožnogi čuk, (črtasti medvedek, mali skovik)



Stanje in razvojne težnje/conditions, development trend:

- vršni del grebena, ki se razteza od Smrekovca prek Kmesa do Komina,
- vrstno bogata travišča s prevladujočim navadnim volkom na grebenu, nižje po severnem poboju prehod v pas smrekovega gozda v razvojni fazi debeljaka, pod Komnom jersk z borovnico in zeleno jelšo,
- z gozdno-gospodarskimi načrti so ti gozdovi vršeni v gospodarski razred varovalnih gozdov, predel gozdov pod Komnom je gozdni rezervat,
- po grebenu je označena planinska pot od Smrekovca preko Kmesa in Kamna do Travnika in naprej proti Loki ter Raduhi (planinska transverzala),
- vrh Smrekovca je tudi pozimi priljubljen cilj za pohodnike in turne smučarje,
- zaraščanje travnatih površin.

Cilji/Goals:

- Ohranitev habitatnega tipa 6230* (vrstno bogata travišča s prevladujočim navadnim volkom) na čim večji površini,
- ohranitev habitatov silikatnih skalnih pobojev z vegetacijo skalnih razpok pod Komnom (severno poboje),
- ohranitev ostalih travišč na grebenskem delu,
- ohranitev habitatov za zgoraj naštetete vrste v ugodnem stanju.

Ukrepi za ohranitev stanja/guidelines and actions:

- nega travišč na grebenu s posekom in odstranitvijo drevesnih in grmovnih vrst, ki bi lahko zaele zaraščati oz. je zatejano zaraščati travišča,
- skalna poboja prepuščena naravnemu razvoju – brez ukrepov,
- ohranjanje travnate površine na grebenu (ruševce, kocožogi čuk),
- pri vzdrževanju travišč ohranjanje plodonosnih rastlin, posek zelene jelše pod Komnom za ohranjanje borovnice (ruševce),
- puščanje sušic in odmrliga drevesja v gozdu (gozdni rezervat in varovalni gozdovi),
- omejitve množičnega nabiranja borovnic in brusnic (kako?)
- preprečevanje motokosov vožnje in vožnje z motornimi sanmi po celotni coni.

Usmeritve za obiskovanje/Guidelines for visitors:

- gibanje pohodnikov naj bo omejeno na obstoječe poti, ki jih je treba ustrezno vzdrževati in obeleževati,
- habitatne tipe in vrste ter ukrepe za njihovo ohranjanje vgraditi v pohodniške vodnike,
- oprema poti z manjšimi informacijskimi tabliami.





6. Organizing 2nd. workshop

- Presentation of objectives of the workshop
- Seeking consent on the prepared planning fundamentals
- Presentation of the planning contents
- Organizing work in groups
- Discussion



7. Revisiting planning fundamentals (corrections)

8. Pinpointing remaining open issues





D) Gained experiences

- Most stakeholders have basic knowledge on Natura 2000
- Most landowners as well the authorities of local communities would prefer if the state designated the Natura 2000 sites in a collaborative way
- Collaborative problem-oriented workshops do not seem expensive neither time-consuming. Nevertheless, they are demanding from the organizational and preparational point of view
- Most stakeholders expressed their willingness for participating in collaborative problem-oriented workshops
- Most stakeholders see the NIBMY effect as a stand against the decisions taken independently by the authorities
- Most stakeholders expressed their willingness to support the ideas established collaboratively





E) Basic guidelines for unbiased democratic procedure

- Defining the task force and its leader
- Assuring unbiased democratic procedure (legality, legitimacy, neutrality, objectivity,)
- Preparing a complete list of relevant stakeholders (the main developer or investor should not be missing)
- Determining an approach to planning
 - DDP (e.g. collaborative learning, participation+mediation) = **recommended by experts**
 - Solely participation (passive - active)
- Assuring timely informing and reporting in all working phases
- Determining the ways and means of conflict management
- Determining the ways of decision-making (providing alternative solutions to the authorities)



F) Basic guidelines for encouraging the tourist sector

- Continuous communicating: exchange of information, knowledge and experiences in the fields of:
 - legislation (in which procedures and how to participate)
 - ecology, geography, history, culture, ethnology, social habits and behavior, local cuisine
 - visitors needs, wants, desires, habits, visitor flows
- Establishment of partnerships
 - exchange of information on development problems, challenges and opportunities
 - investigating possibilities for investments, sponsorships
- Supporting and promoting partnerships
