

Management Plan of the Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve for the period 2010–2020

SUMMARY

The Vision of the Gornje Podunavlje SNR connects all stakeholders in securing a better future of the Reserve and the surrounding local communities. All management activities must be completely aligned with this vision, having in mind that this vision reflects the main purpose of the existence of the Reserve and the goals of its development, as well as the key management guidelines.

The Reserve will become a part of the largest European continental UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, which will stand on the frontline of the preservation of unique natural and cultural values. Their valorization, through sustainable forestry, game management and hunting, angling and tourism, is beneficial for both the region and the local communities, and they also serve for the pleasure of visitors.

The Reserve has the role of being a driver of sustainable development in the region, and the area beyond. This provides new experiences for visitors, due to the uniqueness of its nature and possibilities for recreation. The Vision also underlines the educational function of the Reserve.

There are three milestone goals foreseen for the long-term sustainable management of the Reserve:

1. Preservation: to preserve the landscape and biological diversity and cultural heritage,
2. Permanent increase of education and recreational activities: promotion of the importance of conservation of natural values and cultural heritage, together with the enjoyment of pristine nature and other specificities of the Reserve,
3. Empowering local communities: strengthening cooperation initiated with local communities regarding the sustainable use of natural resources, with the aim of developing the regional economy, securing revenues for local inhabitants and new job creation.

The long-term goals of conservation, safeguarding, development and sustainable use are:

1. Conservation of the Danube floodplain and all its basic features
2. Inventory of flora and fauna, mapping of threatened plants and habitats
3. Monitoring natural values
4. Habitat restoration
5. Active conservation of key species and habitats
6. Defining threats, mitigation or eliminating their consequences
7. Validation and improvement of autochthonous natural values – application of active measures of ecosystem conservation, remediation and restoration of valuable habitats, reintroduction of rare or endangered species
8. Preservation of landscapes characteristics of the area
9. Provision of sustainable use of natural resources: forestry, game management, hunting, tourism, recreation

10. Alignment of the permitted use of natural resources with the conservation and preservation needs of the protected area, and development of the principles of sustainable use
11. Cooperation within the national and international protected area networks and development of optimal practices in protected area management; presentation of natural values of national significance
12. Establishment of visitor and research centres
13. Harmonization of the tourism, recreational, cultural and educational components with the needs of the local communities.

The priority activities and measures of conservation, maintenance, monitoring and improvement of natural and cultural values include:

1. Revision of the Decree on Conservation of Gornje Podunavlje SNR
2. Technical equipping of the guard service
3. Development of nature-friendly tourism and the necessary related infrastructure
4. Inventarization of flora and fauna, mapping of species and habitats
5. Monitoring of key species and related habitats
6. Active efforts to combat invasive species
7. Restoration of wetlands – reestablishment of contact between the river and the old river arms through project work and by increasing open water surfaces at the following sites: Karapandža, Široki Rit, Monoštorski Rit – northern side, Bestrement, Štrbac and Košare
8. Active bird conservation through conservation measures in fragmented autochthonous forest stands and preservation of individual trees necessary for breeding
9. Improvement of all means of cooperation with other users of the area and local communities on development of eco-tourism and promotion of the Reserve
10. Presentation and popularization of natural values of the area