

Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

The coordinator for protected areas at the national level invited specialist working in the protected areas to provide information on the questions. The information was compiled and the questions answered. Additional information and material available in English was included as required.

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					X
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process					
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) an assessment is being planned for					
c) an assessment is being undertaken					X
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made					

Regulatory framework

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents	X (see below)
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	X
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets	

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	X (see below)
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

Management approach

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	X (see below)
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	X
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	X - According to the Nature Conservation Act (1999, amendment 2002) six different management categories of protected areas are recognized.
10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	X (see below)

c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	
11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	X - One Nature Reserve (Škocjanski Zatok) is managed by a non-governmental organisation (Birdlife Slovenia) and two landscape parks by private enterprises.

Available resources

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X - There are serious financial resource shortages what in addition affects both, causing institutional and human insufficiencies.
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
d) yes, good resources are available	
13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	X
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	

Assessment

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	X (partly) – see below
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	X
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	
16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is planned	
c) an assessment is in process	X - Partial assessments have been carried out in some protected areas. In the TNP a thesis work included also economic evaluation of benefits; a research work has started on the “Economic Evaluation of the TNP”.
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	

Regional and international cooperation

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X (see below)
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) information is not available	

19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them. (see below)	
21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X (see below)

Further comments

For an overview on Protected areas in Slovenia please see also the "Biological and Landscape Diversity in Slovenia, An Overview (ARSO, 2001), page 139-146, as well as other parts of the document.

National Environmental Action Programme (MOP-UVN, 1999), page 42-43.

4 d)

Nature Conservation Act (1999, amendment 2002)

A review is provided in the Biological and Landscape Diversity in Slovenia, An Overview published in 2001. A hard copy and an electronic copy have been provided to the Secretariat.

6 b)

There is no entrance fee to protected areas, but the fee is required to certain natural monuments, nature reserves or other areas or objects of natural heritage (Škocjan caves, Vindgar gorge, the Savica waterfall, parts of Logarska valley). An entrance fee is also required for objects of cultural heritage within protected areas (castles, museums), or visitors have to pay parking fee. In the Triglav National Park, very often the tenure of these objects or areas is still not resolved, meaning also that the management authority is not involved.

An example is also the entrance fee to the Podsreda castle (Kozjansko Regional Park), providing also exhibitions and multi-vision and the entrance fee to two small museum houses in Škocjan caves Regional Park.

The issue is left to protected areas to work on it on case to case bases rather to be resolved at the national level.

7 c)

General assessment has been discussed in the the Biological and Landscape Diversity in Slovenia (ARSO, 2001). Approaches used in protected areas are often different and the work is mostly fragmentary:

In the Kozjansko Regional Park threats were assessed in some parts, and were included in LIFE Nature project.

In the Triglav National Park some assessment studies have been carried out. For example, in 1992 Park

Authorities published an analysis using a ten year period for assessing the state of threats and the negative impacts (Razprave in raziskave 1). More recent assessments are usually focusing only on certain human activities (ex. tourism and recreation). For the preparation of a management plan of the Triglav National Park an assessment of threats has to be carried out as well.

10 b)

Different stakeholders, including local communities, sectors and different ministries, as well as NGOs take part in a Park Council/Board of each established national or regional park.

Different stakeholders are involved in the establishment of a protected area. According to Nature Conservation Act public hearings are obligatory. Such a process was fully carried out in a recently established Landscape Park Goričko.

14 b)

Constraints have been assessed only partly! In some protected areas stakeholders and their activities do not comply with the objectives of the protected areas. For example, in the TNP hunting organisations and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food are opposing to eliminate hunting in the PA; nature conservation guidelines are not always respected in the spatial planning; conflicting interests with the military or police within the park territory.

Actions to deal with constraints are in place within LIFE project area of the Kozjansko Regional Park.

17 b)

Details on transboundary cooperation are provided in the “Biological and Landscape Diversity in Slovenia, An Overview (ARSO, 2001). Recently established Landscape park Goričko will become a part of trilateral park on the border between Slovenia, Austria and Hungary.

The Triglav National Park (TNP) is working on collaborative management with the Regional Park Predalpi Gulie (Italy).

20)

Currently, two protected areas in Slovenia are listed as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: Sečoveljske soline is a Landscape Park and was included in the List in 1993; Škocjanske jame is a Regional Park and became a Ramsar Site in 1999. In addition, since 1986 the area is also a World Natural Heritage Site under the Paris Convention.

There are additionally eight areas in preparation for the Ramsar List (ARSO, 2001). TNP has been proposed for the UNESCO MAB programme, a Biosphere Reserve. The proposal was presented at the UNESCO Congress in October 2002 in Rome. The Park has been also proposed for the Diploma of the Council of Europe and the procedure has being carried out.

According to the Birds and Habitats Directives of the EC several areas will become Natura 2000 sites.

21 b)

The Kozjansko Regional Park (KRP) has experience in conservation of dry meadows and meadow orchards as part of socio-economic sustainable development, including marketing of local products (apples).

The TNP is gradually adapting to the international standards for National Parks. The park is experienced in managing the information centre as a socio-economic advantage for the local people, in promoting the importance of the agro-environmental programmes for the local farmers, in planning and organising recreation in protected areas, in habitat mapping within the TNP among other things.

In the Sečovlje salina the knowledge of traditional production and marketing of salt is significant.