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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

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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

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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

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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

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

What is DDP:
An instrument that has been suggested and promoted worldwide 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.

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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

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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.

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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

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The procedure:

1. Defining objectives (acquainting with the development problems, achieving consent on landscape fundamentals plans enclosing the Natura 2000 sites)
2. Defining target groups (stakeholders =Authorities, Sectors operating in the environment e.g. forestry, agriculture, 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

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- 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	Pričnonosti
Ekonomski	Zakonodaja	Ekoturizem
Socialni	Strukturni skladi (EU, SLO)	Trženje "narave"
Prostorsko-ekološki	Delavnice - pridobivanje znanja	Trženje blagovnih znakov
Komunikacijsko-informatički	Participacija deležnikov	Kmečki turizem
Kompleksni, znanje, etika		Vodenje obiskovalcev s posebnimi potrebbami
		Razvoj rekreativnih dejavnosti (kolesarjenje, jahanje, pohodništvo)

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Landscape fundamentals - CRNA

Legenda

- map občine
- gradnja cesta
- odprtina cesta

Cone:

1. Mestna podjetja
2. Traktorji s tehničkimi komponentami
3. Traktorji in naletje
4. Stanovi in zgradbi v naseljih
5. Gozdarski in razvojni gospodarjenje
6. Gozdarska obratna akcija gospodarjenje

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

Habitatni tipi/Habitat types:

-(6230*) Vrstno bogata travišča s prevladajočim navadnim volkom (*Nardus stricta*) na silikatnih tleh v montanskem pasu (in submontanskem pasu v celinskem delu Evrope);
(3220) Silikatna skalnata pobočja z vegetacijo skalnih razpolomov;
(4060) Alpske in borealne resave; (6150) Alpska in borealna travišča na silikatnih tleh

Vrste/Species:

ruševec, koconogi čuk, (črtasti medvedek, mali skovik)

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Stanje in razvojne težnje/conditions, development trend:

- vršni del grebenja, ki se razteza od Smrekovca prek Krmesa do Komna,
- vršni bogata travšča s prevladujočim navadnim volkom na grebenju, nižje po severem pobočju prehod v pas smrekovega gozda, zgoraj pa fajer debelika, pod Komnom jarek z borovnico in zeleno jelšo,
- z gozdno-gospodarskimi načrti so ti gozdovi izvršeni v gospodarski razred varovalnih gozdov, predel gozdu pod Komnom je gozdni rezervat,
- po grebenju je zasena planinska pot od Smrekovca preko Krmesa in Kamna do Travnika in naprej proti Luki ter Raduhi (planinska hribova obsevala),
- vrh Smrekovca je tudi pozimi priljubljen cilj za pohodnike in tume smučarje,
- zaraškanje travnatih površin.

Cilji/Goals:

- obranitev habitatnega tipa 6230* (vrstno bogata travšča s prevladujočim navadnim volkom) na tem vsej površini,
- varstvo skalnih travnatih poljotvrdih gozdov z vegetacijo skalnih razpot pod Komnom (severno pobočje),
- obranitev ostalih travniških načrtov na grebenjem delu,
- obranitev habitatov za zgornj naštete vrste v ugodnem stanju.

Ukrepi za ohranitev stanja/guidelines and actions:

- nega travniški na grebenju s posekom in odstranjanju drevesnih in grmovnih vrst, ki bi lahko zacele zaraščati oz. je začenjano zaraščati travniški načrti,
- skalične travniške prepuščene naravnemu razvoju - brez ukrepov,
- obranjanje travnatih površin na grebenju (ruševci, kocognogi, cuk),
- pri vzdrževanju travniških ohranjanje ploskovinskih rastlin, posek zelenih jelš in pod Komnom za ohranjanje borovnice (ruševci),
- podesavanje travniških načrtov (vzorci, opisovanje rezonančnosti in varovalni gozdovi),
- omejitev možljivosti načirjanja borovnic in brusnic (kakor?),
- prepreved motokros voznje in voznje z motorimi sammi po celotni coni.

Usmeritev za obiskovanje/Guidelines for visitors:

- gibanje pohodnikov naj bo omogočeno na obstoječe poti, ki jih je treba ustrezeno vzdrževati in obelježevati,
- habitatne tipi in vrste ter ukrepe za njihovo ohranjanje vgraditi v pohodniške vodnike,
- oprema poti z manjšimi informacijskimi tablami.

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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



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Bolzano, October 19-20, 2006

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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

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Bolzano, October 19-20, 2006

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
