



# **Nature protection**

## Overview

The reporting period has been marked by issues that have previously been noted, the resolution of which require building administrative capacity, more inclusive decision-making processes and better cooperation among sectors, as well as the political readiness to meet high standards of nature protection.

The lack of legislative activity in the reporting period has not resolved the deeply rooted and growing discrepancies between the protection and use of natural values. There has been a notable emphasis by legislators on creating a legal framework that enables developers to gain consent for development projects with ease, rather than setting necessary standards for nature protection. Despite numerous announcements, amendments to the Law on Nature Protection<sup>144</sup>, concerning the construction of small hydropower plants in protected areas have not been adopted. A ten-year wait for the adoption of the Regulation on the Accessibility Assessment for the Ecological Network represents a particularly prominent example of the slow legislative process.

Work on defining the strategic framework of nature protection, which began in 2016, has been equally tormented, and, in its latest iteration, offers a document that varies significantly from the documents stipulated by the applicable Law on Nature Protection.

The implementation of the Law on Nature Protection has not achieved the goals set out in the current Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia for establishing protected areas, due to the duration of the procedure for proclaiming protected areas.

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144 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", Nos. 36/2009, 88/2010, 91/2010 – corrigendum, 14/2016 and 95/2018 – other law.

One positive indicator is the somewhat greater cohesion of civil society initiatives regarding the resolution of the issue relating to illegal acts against wild species.

One of the key reasons for the negative situation in the sector is the lack of funds invested by the State in nature protection, as well as the insufficient number of projects that would improve the situation in this area.

# Strategic and legislative framework

The adoption of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Nature Protection, which will prohibit the construction of the small hydropower plants in protected areas, should have been adopted in March 2019; however, the Draft Law has not yet been adopted. The Serbian Government Work Plan for 2020<sup>145</sup> envisages that the Draft Law on Nature Protection should be on the agenda by December 2020. The Draft is not available to the public, and given the generalized description of the proposed amendments, it is not clear what the subject matter of the amendments will actually be.

Amendments to the Law on Nature Protection in 2010 established the obligation of the Government to stipulate, in detail, the Appropriate Assessment procedure, harmonizing the legislative framework of the Republic of Serbia with Article 6, paragraph 3, of the EU Habitats Directive, which stipulates that plans and programmes that could impact on protected areas must be the subject of an Appropriate Assessment. The Regulation on Appropriate Assessment has not been adopted in the period covered by this Report; however, according to the Serbian Government Work Plan for 2019<sup>146</sup>, the Regulation should have been on the agenda by December 2019. Although the third revision of the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis<sup>147</sup>, in February 2018, stated that the draft of the Regulation had already been prepared, it had not been made available to the public at the time of the publication of this Report.

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145 Government of the Republic of Serbia (2020): Government Work Plan 2020, available at: [https://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/370541/plan-rada-vlade-srbije-za-2020\\_cyr.pdf](https://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/370541/plan-rada-vlade-srbije-za-2020_cyr.pdf)

146 Government of the Republic of Serbia (2019): Government Work Plan 2019, available at: [http://www.gs.gov.rs/doc/PLAN\\_RADA\\_VLADE\\_2019.pdf](http://www.gs.gov.rs/doc/PLAN_RADA_VLADE_2019.pdf)

147 [https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/nacionalna\\_dokumenta/npaa/npaa\\_2018\\_2021.pdf](https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/nacionalna_dokumenta/npaa/npaa_2018_2021.pdf)

The Rulebook on Declaring a Closed Hunting Season for the Protected Wild Game Species<sup>148</sup>, which entered into force in 2016, does not comply with the EU Birds Directive, as it enables the hunting of certain game species throughout the year for the purpose of preventing damage to hunting grounds, without the fulfilment of the requirements stipulated by Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Birds Directive. The Rulebook allows hunting of the turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), fails to specify the exact period of the closed hunting season, and deviates from the Birds Directive regarding the hunting of species with an unfavourable conservation status, as well as hunting and disturbance due to hunting during the breeding season of permanently protected species or species protected during the closed hunting season. During the reporting period, there have been no indications that amendments have been made to the Rulebook on Declaring a Closed Hunting Season for Protected Wild Game Species, or the Rulebook on the Declaration and Protection of Strictly Protected and Protected Wild Species of Plants, Animals and Fungi<sup>149</sup>, or regarding the harmonization of the status of species protected by national legislation with statuses stipulated by the Birds and/or Habitats Directive.

Despite unofficial information that the preparation of amendments to the Law on Game and Hunting<sup>150</sup> began in 2018, with the appointment of the Working Group members, information about the results of the Working Group were not made available to the public during 2019. According to the Serbian Government Work Plan for 2020, the Draft Law should be on the agenda by December 2020.

The Serbian Government's Work Plans for 2019 and 2020 have extended the deadline for the completion of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Fish Resources<sup>151</sup>, from March 2019 to December 2020. CSO representatives were included in the Special Working Group that developed the Draft Law.

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148 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", Nos. 9/2012, 31/2013, 55/2015, 67/2015 and 75/2016.

149 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", Nos. 5/2010, 47/2011, 32/2016 and 98/2016.

150 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", Nos. 18/2010 and 95/2018 – other law.

151 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", Nos. 128/2014 and 95/2018 – other law.

A novelty of nature protection legislation in the Republic of Serbia is the intent to regulate cross-border transportation and trade of wild species of plants and animals with a special law, which, according to the Serbian Government Work Plan for 2020, should be on the agenda by December 2020. The special law is an opportunity to regulate this sector in a more comprehensive manner and to fully harmonize the legislative framework with the EU Regulation on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (EC No. 338/97).

After several years of development, the Draft Nature Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia 2020-2022 was presented in December 2019. The Draft Programme was developed by a Working Group formed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, in accordance with an opinion issued by the Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia, on the basis of the revised of the Draft Nature Conservation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2019-2025<sup>152</sup>, in accordance with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia.<sup>153</sup> According to an official statement, a public review of the document was carried out in 2016, followed by harmonization with the submitted comments.<sup>154,155</sup> Although the scope of the Draft Nature Protection Programme is harmonized with the Law on the Planning System, the period covered by the Programme is significantly shorter than that stipulated by the Law on Nature Protection.

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152 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/predlog-strategije-zastite-prirode-za-period-od-2019-do-2025-godine/>

153 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 30/2018.

154 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/predlog-programa-zastite-prirode-za-period-od-2020-do-2022-godine/>

155 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/javni-uvvid-o-predlogu-strategije-o-zastiti-prirode/?lang=lat>

# The implementation of regulations

According to the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, during the reporting period, procedures for the protection and revision for 23 nature areas with a total area of 90,498.82 hectares have been initiated and public reviews of regulations on the protection of three areas have been implemented.<sup>156</sup> During the same period, the Serbian Government adopted eight regulations proclaiming protected areas. However, none of these were proposed in the Serbian Government Work Plan for 2019. The proclamation of 14 protected areas were planned for 2019, however, this did not happen.<sup>157</sup>

The process of creating protected areas often takes several years, both the period from proclamation to initiation of the protection procedure<sup>158,159,160,161</sup>, and the period from the initiation of the procedure to the adoption of the proclamation document<sup>162,163</sup> which makes it difficult to bridge the gap between the protection and actual use of nature areas, and undermines the efficient implementation of protection measures. All of which leads to the depletion of the area's natural values.

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156 <http://www.ekologija.gov.rs/category/obavestjenja/zastita-prirode>

157 <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/dokument/358235/sednice-vlade-za-vreme-mandata-vlade-republike-srbije-izabrane-29-juna-2017-godine-dokumenti-sa-sednica-odrzanih-2019-godine.php>

158 <http://www.pzzp.rs/rs/sr/zastita-prirode/studije-zastite/podrucja-u-postupku-zastite/item/605-specijalni-rezervat-prirode-pasnjaci-velike-droplje.html>

159 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/obavestjenje-o-postupku-pokretanja-zastite-specijalnog-rezervata-prirode-pasnjaci-velike-droplje/>

160 <http://www.pzzp.rs/rs/sr/zastita-prirode/studije-zastite/podrucja-u-postupku-zastite/item/361-predeo-izuzetnih-odlika-potamisje.html>

161 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/obavestjenje-o-postupku-pokretanja-revizije-zastite-predela-izuzetnih-odlika-potamisje/>

162 <http://www.pzzp.rs/rs/sr/zastita-prirode/studije-zastite/podrucja-u-postupku-zastite/item/163-specijalni-rezervat-prirode-karadordevo-uskladjivanje-sa-zakonom-o-zastiti-prirode.html>

163 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/obavestjenje-o-postupku-pokretanja-zastite-specijalnog-rezervata-prirode-karadjordjevo/>

In addition to the proclamation of protected areas, many of which are ecological networks that meet the NATURA 2000 criteria, there is also a string of issues concerning the implementation of nature protection. It is clear that in managing protected areas, priority is usually given to exploitation of natural resources, rather than the protection of nature. Due to the weaknesses of management plans and their implementation, and the fact that management plans rarely include updated and high-quality data on biodiversity, there are no restrictive conditions for the implementation of activities and projects that harmfully impact on biodiversity or the natural values of areas that possess natural values. Among other issues, there are tight deadlines for the issuance of nature protection conditions stipulated by the Law on Planning and Construction procedures<sup>164</sup>, and formal Environmental Impact Assessment procedures are undertaken as a formality once other conditions for a development project have been issued, minimizing the likely impact of the Assessment on potentially harmful development projects. Given these circumstances, as well as the lack of a stipulated procedure for the astipulated procedure for the a p know what the term means specifically"hel the other texts.propriate assessment of plans and projects for the ecological network, it can be concluded that the standards for the protection of habitats and species stipulated by the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive have not been met. This conclusion is supported by increasing pressure on the ecological network in the form of the planning and implementation of projects for electricity generation, road building and other types of infrastructure, tourism, and mineral exploitation, among others. In addition to the unchanged status of the construction of small hydropower plants, a particular concern is the construction of ski centres and winter tourism infrastructure in valuable protected areas, such as Kopaonik

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164 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", Nos. 72/2009, 81/2009 – corrigendum, 64/2010 – CC, 24/2011, 121/2012, 42/2013 – CC, 50/2013 – CC, 98/2013 – CC, 132/2014, 145/2014, 83/2018, 31/2019, 37/2019 – other law and 9/2020.

National Park,<sup>165,166,167,168</sup> Stara Planina Nature Park<sup>169</sup>, Zlatibor Nature Park<sup>170</sup> and Golija Nature Park.<sup>171,172</sup>

During the reporting period, the establishment of the ecological network of the Republic of Serbia and the ecological network of the European Union NATURA 2000 in Serbia have continued through projects funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia and EU IPA funds. The Ministry of Environmental Protection allocated part of the funds to support the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia to implement projects to obtain data on types of habitats and individual organisms of flora and fauna and data on birds, as well as obtaining data for the development of Red Lists of individual groups of species. These projects should also result in proposals for Special Protected Areas and/or Sites of Community Importance, and proposals for amendments to the Rulebook on the declaration and protection of strictly protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi. Project activities initiated in 2018 were completed in 2019, and new projects with similar objectives initiated. Information about the activities that have been implemented and the results achieved as part of these projects is not publicly available.<sup>173</sup>

EU IPA funds have been allocated to a two-year project that continues the establishment of the NATURA 2000 network in Serbia, which began in May 2019. The project aims to complete the designation of potential SPA and SCI areas in accordance with the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive; develop

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165 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/resenje-o-davanju-saglasnosti-na-studiju-o-proceni-uticaja-na-zivotnu-sredinu-projekta-izgradnje-ski-staze-na-k-p-br-550-23-i-551-2-k-o-dobroselica/>

166 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/resenje-o-davanju-saglasnosti-na-studiju-o-proceni-uticaja-na-zivotnu-sredinu-projekta-izgradnje-ski-staze-na-k-p-br-550-23-i-551-2-k-o-dobroselica-2/>

167 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/zahtev-za-odlucivanje-o-potrebi-proceni-uticaja-na-zivotnu-sredinu-projekta-izgradnje-ski-staze-pancic-duboka-u-okviru-alpskog-skijalista-tc-kopaonik-na-k-p-1319-15-1328-3/>

168 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/zahtev-za-odlucivanje-o-potrebi-proceni-uticaja-na-zivotnu-sredinu-projekta-izgradnje-ski-staze-u-okviru-alpskog-skijalista-tc-kopaonik-na-k-p-1319-15-i-1333-1-ko-brzece/>

169 <http://www.jpstaraplanina.rs/lat/javna-prezentacija-urbanistickog-projekta-za-izgradnju-sportsko-rekreativnog-centra-na-jabuckom-ravnistu/>

170 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/resenje-o-davanju-saglasnosti-na-studiju-o-proceni-uticaja-na-zivotnu-sredinu-projekta-izgradnje-ski-staze-na-k-p-br-550-23-i-551-2-k-o-dobroselica-2/>

171 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/zahtev-za-odlucivanje-o-potrebi-proceni-uticaja-na-zivotnu-sredinu-projekta-izgradnje-ski-staze-u-okviru-alpskog-skijalista-tc-kopaonik-na-k-p-1319-15-i-1333-1-ko-brzece/>

172 <http://pticesrbije.rs/2019/10/26/golija-dom-za-najrede-sove-u-srbiji-evo-sta-ugrozava-njihov-opstanak/>

173 <http://portal.ujn.gov.rs/RezultatiPretrage.aspx?tab=1&pocetna=1&tp=F1KlMn+JuNI=&nar=OVHT0c990ML-Wsq+56Oeh4ox1WYxFmSpGpMj6frDW2C9lggL+FqgTowl8hrml326CKBcjOoU2scq7yhNN7AoLQ==>

an information system, database and GIS for NATURA 2000 areas; harmonize and revise national legislation in line with EU directives on nature protection; strengthen technical and administrative capacity for the implementation of the Nature Protection Law; and implement an awareness-raising campaign about the NATURA 2000 network.<sup>174</sup> According to the interim report of the project, activities in 2019 primarily focused on establishing the project team, cooperation with stakeholders in the field of the environment, and achieving the first two sets of results.<sup>175</sup>

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has engaged to a limited degree in certain issues that have drawn a lot of public attention in recent years, such as the burning of stubble and the uncontrolled fires it caused. In addition to advocating for strengthened inspection and a corresponding penal policy, the inclusion of CSOs in a campaign to educate the public also represents a step forward.<sup>176,177</sup>

During the reporting period, progress was made in improving the management of national parks in Serbia, through the establishment of advisory boards at three national parks<sup>178</sup>, stipulated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection in accordance with the Law on National Parks.<sup>179</sup> The purpose of the advisory boards is to provide sustainable resource management for protected areas through local community participation in the drafting of management plans and programmes.

Action plans for the management of lynx and bear populations have been prepared during 2019. The action plans were drafted by experts from the Faculty of Biology and the Natural History Museum in Belgrade, with funding from the Ministry of Environmental Protection. CSOs were included in consultations during the drafting of the plans. According to available information, the draft

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174 <http://natura-2000.euzatebe.rs/rs/o-projektu>

175 Eptisa: EU for Natura 2000 in Serbia. 1st Interim Report 27th July 2019 – 31st January 2020

176 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/projekti/ne-pali-strnjiku/>

177 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/poziv-javnosti-ne-palimo-strnjiku/>

178 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/osnovani-saveti-korisnika-u-tri-nacionalna-parka-srbije/>

179 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", Nos. 84/2015 and 95/2018 – other law.

plans have been submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, but no information is available about when and how the plans will be adopted officially.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection imposed a ban on catching Sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*) on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.<sup>180</sup> The Ministry also stated that the budget for 2019 would allocate funds for sterlet population research in the Republic of Serbia in order to determine further protective measures. At the beginning of 2019, the Ministry initiated a public procurement procedure for sterlet population research; however, in May 2019 the Ministry's website announced that the tender had failed as no offers had been submitted.<sup>181</sup> According to unofficial information, the tender will be repeated in 2020.

In the period covered by this Report, there have been no activities to build the capacity of competent bodies to fight crime related to endangered wild species. In October 2019, training for police and customs officers and public prosecutors was organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Italy.<sup>182</sup> In February 2020, training for inspectors, police officers, prosecutors and basic court judges was delivered and co-organized by CSOs and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, aiming at strengthening capacity to conduct investigations and detect illegal acts pertaining to wild species and their habitats.<sup>183,184</sup>

Despite warnings by civil society about widespread poisoning of wild animals, particularly birds, and a lack of focused action to systemically resolve this issue, no progress was made in this field in 2019. At the end of 2019, civil society organisations launched an initiative to establish a working group against poisoning and for developing guidelines for handling cases of poisoning. The drafting of a document to regulate the responsibilities of relevant bodies in cases

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180 <https://www.wwfadria.org/sr/?uNewsID=340452>

181 [https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/nabavke/2019/OBAVESTENJE\\_O\\_OBUSTAVI\\_POSTUPKA\\_KECIGA.pdf](https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/nabavke/2019/OBAVESTENJE_O_OBUSTAVI_POSTUPKA_KECIGA.pdf)

182 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/saradnja-sa-ministarstvom-odbrane-republike-italije-arma-dei-carabinieri-u-suzbijanju-kriminala-vezanog-za-ugrozene-divlje-vrste/>

183 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/odrzana-obuka-za-otkrivanje-procesuiranje-i-sankcionisanje-prestupavezanih-za-divlje-vrste/>

184 <https://www.wwfadria.org/sr/?uNewsID=360394>

of poisoning and other cases of illegal acts against wild species was initiated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection in 2017; however, no information about the progress of this process was available during reporting period. In September 2019, a group of CSOs also submitted a draft national strategy for the fight against the illegal killing, capturing, keeping and trade of wild birds in the Republic of Serbia, which aims to establish a strategic framework to improve the protection of birds.

The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, ratified in 2018, entered into force for Serbia on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2019<sup>185</sup>. During the period covered by this Report no information about the implementation of measures to meet the obligations assumed under this Agreement were available. The same applies to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, which entered into force on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.<sup>186, 187</sup> It is not known whether national reports have been submitted to the bodies of these international agreements.

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185 <https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/news/serbia-accedes-aewa-party-no-79>

186 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia – International Agreements", No. 13/2018.

187 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia – International Agreements", No. 3/2019.

# Financing

The National Environmental Approximation Strategy estimates that the total required costs of approximation in nature protection amount to €139 million or 1.3% of the total cost of environmental protection.<sup>188</sup> In 2019, 7.73% of the Ministry of Environmental Protection's budget was spent on nature protection measures, whereas the Budget Law for 2020 foresees the allocation of 6.47% of the Ministry's budget for environmental protection. Given that between RSD 500 million and RSD 600 million is allocated annually for nature protection, it is clear that, if budget allocations for nature protection continue at this pace, it will take decades to achieve the necessary investment in this sector.<sup>189, 190</sup>

Financial resources allocated for nature protection from the Green Fund related to afforestation activities, which should nominally contribute to nature protection and landscape diversity preservation, are granted to various legal entities through calls for bids by the Ministry of Environmental Protection. About RSD 40 million annually is allocated for afforestation, however reports on the implementation of individual projects financed in this way are not available to the public. It should be borne in mind that, if afforestation activities are not harmonized with the specific conservation needs of habitats and species, afforestation itself does not ensure nature protection. The lack of information about the implementation of afforestation projects makes it impossible for the public to determine whether funds invested in afforestation actually contribute to nature protection and landscape biodiversity preservation.

During 2019, investment in the establishment of the ecological network of the Republic of Serbia and the ecological network of the European Union (NATURA 2000) in Serbia continued through support provided to the Institute for Nature

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188 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 80/2011, available at: <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/80/1/reg>

189 <https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/informator/IZVR%C5%A0ENJE%20BUD%C5%BDETA%202019.pdf>

190 <http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/cir/pdf/zakoni/2019/BUDZET%202020.pdf>

Conservation and EU IPA funds. The total value of these activities is about €14.9 million.<sup>191</sup> EU IPA funds continued to support preparation for EU accession in the field of nature protection through the project "the Establishment of the NATURA 2000 network in the Republic of Serbia".<sup>192</sup> Through a long-lasting tendering procedure, funds were granted to a consortium led by *Eptisa d.o.o.*. The European Union provided almost €1.5 million for the implementation of this project.

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191 <http://portal.ujn.gov.rs/RezultatiPretrage.aspx?tab=1&pocetna=1&tp=F1KlmN+JuNI=&nnar=OvHT0c99OML-Wsq+56Oeh4ox1WYxFmSpGpMjJ6frDW2C9lggL+FqgTowl8hrmi326CKBcjOoU2scq7yhNN7AoLQ==>

192 <http://www.zzps.rs/wp/povodom-ekoloske-mreze-srbije-i-evropske-mreze-zastite-prirode-natura-2000/?script=lat>

# Recommendations



## Strategic and legislative framework

- 1.** Adopt a new Law on Nature Protection, or amend the existing one, relating to protected area proclamation and management, in particular through: the precise definition of deadlines for the submission of environmental studies, information about the initiation of protection procedures and adoption of the proclamation document; harmonizing protected area categorization with the categorization of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature; improving the management model in protection modes in accordance with the specific needs of different protected areas; and improving promoting the definition and implementation of regimes and measures of protection, in particular biomonitoring.
- 2.** Adopt the Regulation on Appropriate Assessment and the corresponding amendments to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, in order to establish the required standards for the approval of plans and projects that could impact on the ecological network, in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 3, of the Habitats Directive.
- 3.** Draft and adopt the Nature Conservation Strategy and other strategic documents in accordance with the Law on Nature Protection and the Law on the Planning System, fully in accordance with the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

4. Amend the Rulebook on the declaration and protection of strictly protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi and the Rulebook on declaring a closed hunting season for the protected wild game species, in order to fully transpose the provisions of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive.
5. Draft and adopt a document to precisely define the order and method of action of competent authorities when identifying cases of poisoning and other cases of illegal acts against wild species.
6. Improve cooperation between the nature protection sector, energy sector, spatial and urban planning sector and the construction sector in the adoption of planning documents and regulations, particularly those regulating the Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment procedures and those to which the assessments apply.
7. Improve CSO participation in the preparation, adoption and monitoring of the implementation of regulations, in particular through inclusion in the early stages of development, in accordance with the Rulebook on the Methodology for Public Policy Management, the Regulation on the Content of Various Public Policy Documents<sup>193</sup> and the Guidelines on the Inclusion of Civil Society Organizations in the Process of Drafting Regulations of the Serbian Government.<sup>194</sup>



## The implementation of regulations

8. Make the negotiating position for nature protection public and include CSOs in the negotiation process.
9. Improve the capacities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, promote cooperation and ensure an open flow of information between sectors within the Ministry.

193 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 8/2019.

194 "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 90/2014.

- 10.** Promote the capacities of institutes for nature conservation (provincial and republic) through increasing the number of competent personnel and the upgrading of technical capacities.
- 11.** Continue building the capacity of the police, the inspectorate, prosecutor's offices and the judiciary for the implementation of regulations related to the protection of species and habitats, in cooperation with expert CSOs.
- 12.** Improve annual inspection plans and their implementation in protected areas and areas of the ecological network, in order to prevent the excessive use of natural resources and illegal acts, and ensure the conservation of the natural values of those areas.
- 13.** Strengthen cooperation among all stakeholders in order to prevent corruption in the nature conservation sector (especially related to the illegal use of forests, water resources and hunting).
- 14.** Ensure a more active approach by the competent Ministry in solving problems and preventing violations of the provisions of the International Convention on the Conservation of European Wild Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats in the Republic of Serbia.
- 15.** Ensure regular and adequate reporting under the ratified international conventions in the field of nature conservation (in particular according to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wild Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the CITES Convention).
- 16.** Stipulate measures for the preservation, renewal and improvement of the status of the ecological network areas, through a participatory process that includes the competent State bodies and civil society, as well as users of ecological network areas.



## Financing

- 17.** Ensure the adequate and purposeful financing of nature conservation through the Green Fund in accordance with the needs of nature conservation (identify priorities and criteria for allocation of funds).
- 18.** Continue to provide regular funding for activities aimed at establishing the ecological network of the Republic of Serbia and the NATURA 2000 network, with complete and regular reporting on the activities implemented and funds spent.
- 19.** Ensure the allocation of appropriate funds to the nature protection budget and regular and detailed reporting on spending; allocate more funds for the practical protection of species and habitats.



# NATURE PROTECTION

## THE PROCEDURE OF NATURAL AREA PROTECTION

Regulations on the declaration of protected areas were adopted **ON AVERAGE 1,102 DAYS** after they first appeared in the Government's work plans\*\*



1,348 days\*



650 days\*



Nature conservation institutes submitted draft protection studies

The Ministry informs the public about the initiation of protection procedures



The Government adopts regulations on the declaration of protected areas

Period during which protected areas **DID NOT HAVE A MANAGER** to adopt and implement management plans

## FIGURES FOR 2019

8

Government adopted regulations on the protection for **EIGHT AREAS**



**ONE AREA** also meets the criteria for the **NATURA 2000** ecological network

14

**protected areas** proposed in the Government's Work Plan for 2019 **HAVE NOT BEEN DECLARED**

**THE ENTIRE PROTECTION PROCEDURE ON AVERAGE LASTED**

1,998 days

**~5.5 YEARS**

\* Average duration of the procedure in days

\*\* One of the regulations of the declaration was not previously included in the Serbian Government's work plans.



KOALICIJA 27

