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## **NATURE PROTECTION REGIMES AND CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS IN SPATIAL PLANS OF AREAS OF SPECIAL PURPOSE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA**

### ***Abstract***

According to the Law on Spatial Development and Construction of the Republic of Srpska, the spatial plan of the Special Purpose Area of the Republic of Srpska is adopted mandatory for national parks and other areas if this is determined by documents of a higher order or wider area. The Spatial Plan of the Special Purpose Area of the Republic of Srpska defines priority objectives in the categories of space and time, based on the completed harmonization of precisely identified conflicting and potentially conflicting goals. According to the Law on Nature Conservation of the Republic of Srpska, the following protection regimes are implemented in the protected area: Ia, Ib, II and III level of protection. In this paper, an analysis of the protection regime and building rules in the spatial plans of the special purpose area of the Kozara National Park and the Sutjeska National Park was carried out.

*Keywords: Special purpose area plan, protected areas, Republic of Srpska*

## **РЕЖИМ ЗАШТИТЕ ПРИРОДЕ И ПРАВИЛА ГРАЂЕЊА И УРЕЂЕЊА У ПРОСТОРНИМ ПЛАНОВИМА ПОДРУЧЈА ПОСЕБНЕ НАМЈЕНЕ У РЕПУБЛИЦИ СРПСКОЈ**

### ***Сажетак***

Према Закону о уређењу простора и грађењу Републике Српске, просторни план подручја посебне намјене Републике Српске доноси се обавезно за националне паркове и друга подручја уколико је то одређено документима вишег реда или ширег подручја. Просторним планом подручја посебне намјене Републике Српске одређују се приоритетни циљеви у категоријама простора и времена, а на основу извршеног усаглашавања прецизно идентификованих сукобљених и потенцијално сукобљених циљева. Према Закону о заштити природе Републике Српске, на заштићеном подручју спроводе се сљедећи режими заштите: Ia, Ib, II и III степен заштите. У овом раду извршена је анализа режима заштите и правила грађења у просторним плановима подручја посебне намјене Националног парка Козара и Националног парка Сутјеска.

*Кључне ријечи: план подручја посебне намјене, заштићена подручја, Република Српска*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The analysis of the application of legal regulations in the domain of protected area of exceptional or great importance determined the subject matter and the goals of work research. The work aims to prove the importance of spatial planning documentation for nature protection. We are witnessing the gradual degradation of nature in national parks, and the reason for this is precisely the lack of spatial planning documentation, which is the basis for nature conservation and protection. "Kozara" National Park is one of the 34 protected areas on the territory of Republika Srpska, and only it has an approved Spatial Plan for Special Purpose Areas, which is a devastating but also worrying fact. The spatial unit represents a complex with multiple functions and purposes that are of existential importance for the survival of the area [1]. Interpolating different purposes within protected areas, if not viewed integrally, can lead to a series of undesirable consequences such as uncontrolled spatial urbanization [2]. In the desire to meet the needs of its users, the design process often neglects the broader environment, potentially endangering the protected area [3].

In many cases, the management of protected areas at the beginning of the 20th century endangered already vulnerable traditional rights and habits of local population [4]. Today, protected areas are used not only for preserving biodiversity but also for safeguarding natural and cultural assets [5]. Protected areas are even promoted as solutions for certain social problems [6], hence the need for not only protecting the area but also planning its organization, use, development, and construction. It is recommended and necessary for protected areas to have developed and adopted spatial plans of special purpose that will be implemented and respected [7].

Bosnia and Herzegovina was an integral part of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the period from 1945–1963, under the name of the People's Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and from 1963 until 1992, as the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, From 1992 until today, the state was Bosnia and Herzegovina ([https://sh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socijalisti%C4%8Dka\\_Republika\\_Bosna\\_i\\_Hercegovina](https://sh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socijalisti%C4%8Dka_Republika_Bosna_i_Hercegovina)) [8]. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country that is divided into two entities, Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the independent territory of Brčko District. Due to the complex territorial-administrative division of the country, there is also a complex planning system. In the Republic of Srpska, spatial planning is done at the level of local self-government units, while in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, spatial planning is at the canton level. In the Republic of Srpska, spatial planning documents are divided into strategic and executive documents. The strategic documents are: the spatial plan of the Republic of Srpska; the spatial plan of special purpose areas of the Republic of Srpska; the common spatial plan for the territories of two or more local self-government units; the spatial plan of a local self-government unit; and the urban plan. Implementation documents of spatial planning are: zoning plan, zoning plan of special purpose areas, regulatory plan, urban project, and subdivision plan ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", number: 40/13) [9].

In this paper, special attention will be paid to the spatial plans of the special-purpose areas that were made for the national parks located in the territory of the Republic of Srpska. In question are two of the three national parks on the territory of the Republic of Srpska: the "Kozara" National Park and the "Sutjeska" National Park. The spatial plan of the special purpose area of NP "Kozara" has been adopted by the competent institutions, while the spatial plan of the special purpose area of NP "Sutjeska" has not yet been adopted. Third, the "Drina" National Park has not adopted or completed the spatial plan of the special purpose area, which is why it is not an integral part of this scientific work.

Spatial plans of special purpose areas are made for areas that are of natural and cultural-historical value, for areas that have tourist or hydro potential, as well as for the construction of buildings for which a building permit is issued by the competent ministry or department that is responsible for the construction in the territory of the local self-government unit, exploitation of mineral resources [10]. The spatial plan of the special purpose area is also prepared for areas that require a special regime of organization, organization, use and protection of space or if they are defined as such in the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Srpska [11].

Spatial plans of areas of special purpose have existed as an integral part of the spatial planning and development system in these areas since the 1970s, specifically, the obligation to prepare them was first defined with the enactment of the Spatial Planning Law in 1974 ("Official Gazette of SR BiH", No. 13/74) [12]. At that time, the mentioned Law introduced the spatial plan of a special area as a subcategory of spatial development plans. In 1986, the first spatial plan for a protected natural area in Bosnia and Herzegovina and today's Republic of Srpska was adopted - the Spatial Plan of the

Special Area, the Sutjeska National Park. Through the mentioned plan, the ranking of the areas of the national park and the surrounding area planned for expansion was conducted based on their overall value by defining precise protection regimes (I, II, III) and their limitations. The first protection regime is defined as the strictest regime for areas of exceptional value, while the third protection regime implies the least restrictions and full use of the area without pollution and degradation of natural resources and their reproduction.

In the period that followed, despite frequent changes in laws, their role in the spatial planning system did not diminish. Their names differed, as did the methodology applied during their preparation and the authority responsible for issuing the document. The content of spatial planning documentation was determined by appropriate sublegal acts - regulations on the method of preparation, content, and formation of spatial planning documents. After the wartime events in the period from 1992 to 1995, the Republic of Srpska initiated the adoption of its own regulations in the field of nature protection and spatial planning. According to the Law on Spatial Planning from 1996 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", No. 19/96) [13], spatial plans for areas are adopted, among other things, for national parks and other protected areas.

The first Republic of Srpska Law on Nature Protection was enacted in 2002 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", No. 50/02) [14] and it contained a different categorization of protected areas compared to legal solutions before 1992. The Law on National Parks from 1996 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", No. 21/96) [15] regulated the protection, development, and management of these categories of protected areas, as well as the boundaries of the designated national parks Sutjeska and Kozara, with the obligation to harmonize spatial plans of the national park areas within two years.

According to the current Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of the Republic of Srpska ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", No. 40/13) [16], spatial plans for areas of special purpose are mandatory for national parks and other areas if specified by a higher-level document or a wider area. The spatial plans for areas of special purpose in the Republic of Srpska determine priority objectives in spatial and temporal categories, based on the achieved harmonization of precisely identified conflicting and potentially conflicting objectives. Additionally, this Plan establishes protective belts and zones, special areas and objects, locations for monitoring the environmental condition, protected objects, general spatial development concepts, spatial organization (settlement system, necessary infrastructure system, etc.), measures for environmental improvement and protection, and other provisions.

In order to obtain a comparative analysis of the situation in the field of protection of protected areas and the creation of spatial plans for special purpose areas, we analyzed the situation in the field of nature protection in the neighboring Republic of Serbia, where we can conclude that the legislative framework is identical to the legislation in the Republic of Srpska. When analyzing the situation in the field of nature protection, in the neighboring Republic of Serbia, we can conclude that the legislative framework is similar to that in the Republic of Srpska. The field of nature protection in Serbia is regulated by the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on Nature Protection, and other laws or regulations directly or indirectly related to nature and natural value [17]. When it comes to the national parks of Serbia, particularly important laws are the Law on National Parks and the Law on Planning and Construction [18]. In Serbia, there has been a balanced ratio of spatial plans by types from 1960 to 2010. The predominance of using spatial plans for areas of special purpose practically began in 2010 and continues to this day. After 50 years of spatial planning practice in Serbia, there has been a kind of deformation of the system for the first time, leading to its practical reduction to one type of plan. Such simplification is not good for the system, but it has its reasons [19].

Spatial plans for protected natural areas as a subcategory of spatial plans for areas of special purpose have not been prepared in the territory of the Republic of Srpska in the last 10 years, i.e., since 2014. In 2017, another national park - Drina - was declared by adopting a special law, but the spatial plan for the area of this newly established national park was not developed during the previous period, and a decision to start the preparation of this document has not been made either [20].

In addition to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of the Republic of Srpska and the Regulation on the Method of Preparation, Content, and Formation of Spatial Planning Documents ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", No. 69/13) [21], there are also numerous other sectoral laws that condition the preparation of spatial plans for areas of special purpose, as well as segments related to protection regimes, such as the Law on Nature Protection of the Republic of Srpska [22], the Law on Waters of the Republic of Srpska ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", No. 50/06) [23], and others.

The research for the purposes of this paper is based on a review of the legal regulations regarding protection regimes of protected areas and regulations for planning and construction in spatial plans for areas of special purpose. Additionally, for the purposes of this paper, special focus is placed on the analysis of spatial plans for areas of special purpose for the National Parks "Kozara" and "Sutjeska".

## 2. METODOLOGY

When writing this scientific work, the following were used: The spatial plan of the special purpose area for the "Kozara" National Park and the spatial plan for the "Sutjeska" National Park, the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of the Republic of Srpska, the Law on Nature Protection, and the Law on National Parks. On the basis of the mentioned documents, a comparative analysis of the plans as well as the protection regime and regulation of the arrangement and construction in the protected areas, National Park "Kozara" and National Park "Sutjeska," was performed. The two mentioned national parks were chosen for consideration because they are the only ones that have developed special purpose area plans. Although the plan for NP "Sutjeska" was not adopted, it served as a basis for obtaining information and data on the state of park protection and the defined conditions of construction and arrangement. The paper also presents a comparative analysis of the state of nature protection in the Republic of Srpska, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro. The analysis refers to protection regimes that are used in the Republic of Srpska and which are used in neighboring countries.

### 2.1. PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIAL PURPOSE AREAS IN APPLICABLE LAWS

The protection zones or protection regimes are an integral part of spatial plans for areas of special purpose in the segment of land use, spatial organization, built-up areas, and spatial functionality. The legal basis for protection regimes is provided through sectoral laws, depending on the nature of the special purpose of the area for which the plan is being developed.

The protection regimes for spatial plans of areas of special purpose for protected areas are defined by the Law on Nature Protection of the Republic of Srpska ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", No. 20/14) [24]. The concept of nature protection under this law is based on the following basic elements: protected areas, protected species, protected minerals and fossils, protection zones, protection regimes, and others.

Protected areas are areas with pronounced geological, biological, ecosystem, or landscape diversity and are significant as habitats for bird species and other migratory species in accordance with international regulations. They can be designated as protected areas of general interest. Protected areas include: strict nature reserve, special nature reserve, national park, natural monument, protected habitat, protected landscapes (protected natural landscape, protected cultural landscape, and nature park), protected area with sustainable use of natural resources (forest park, objects of shaped nature).

The protection regime is defined as a set of measures and conditions determining the manner and degree of protection, use, development, and improvement of the protected natural asset. The protection concept is based on a three-level protection regime: I, II, and III levels. In order to obtain a comparative analysis and assessment of the situation in the countries in the region and their practices when it comes to the protection of space, we analyzed the protection regimes implemented in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, Montenegro, and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the analysis, we came to the conclusion that Republika Srpska and countries from the region have the same or similar protection regimes. The above can be used for cross-border cooperation, for harmonizing spatial documents with those of the countries of the region, or for rewriting the management of protected areas in order to obtain good, functional, and sustainable protected areas. In the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is one protected area in the category of a national park, the Una National Park ("Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH", No. 44/08) [25]. In the Una National Park (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina), the protection regime is established as follows: a) an area of strict and directed protection, and b) an area of directed development which includes the area within the boundaries of the National Park that is not covered by the zone of strict and directed protection. In the territory of Serbia, the protection concept is based on a three-level protection regime: I, II, and III levels, as is the case in the Republic of Srpska [26]. When it comes to the territory of Montenegro, the protection concept in protected areas is the same as in the Republic of Srpska and Serbia. In protected areas in Montenegro, protection zones are designated where the following protection regimes are implemented: a)

protection zone I - strict protection regime, b) protection zone II - active protection regime, and c) sustainable use regime [27].

The first-level protection regime is presented in two sub-levels: Ia is the strict protection regime, while Ib is the strict protection regime with the possibility of population management. The Ia level protection regime is implemented in the part of the protected area with original, unaltered, or slightly altered ecosystems of exceptional scientific and practical significance, allowing exclusively natural succession. Furthermore, the Ia level protection regime excludes all forms of land use and activities, except for scientific research, controlled education, and intervention activities in emergency situations, which are carried out with the expert opinion of the Republic Institute for the Protection of the Cultural, Historical, Natural Heritage. The Ib level protection regime is implemented in the part of the protected area with original, unalterable, or slightly altered ecosystems of great scientific and practical significance. Ib level protection allows exclusively for research, controlled education, and activities aimed at preserving and improving the existing ecosystem conditions. The II level protection regime is implemented in the part of the protected area with partially altered ecosystems of great scientific or practical significance. The II level protection allows for management interventions aimed at the restoration, revitalization, and overall improvement of the natural asset without affecting the primary values of their natural habitats, populations, and ecosystems. It also allows for controlled traditional activities that have not compromised the primary values of the area during their operation. The III level protection regime is implemented in the part of the protected area with partially altered ecosystems of scientific or practical significance. The III level protection allows for selective and limited use of natural resources, management interventions aimed at restoration, revitalization, and overall improvement of the natural asset, sustainable use, development, and improvement of rural households, arrangement of cultural heritage and traditional construction objects, preservation of traditional activities of the local population, development of infrastructure in line with the values, potentials, and capacities of the protected area intended for the development of ecological, rural, health, sports and recreational tourism, and other forms of tourism in accordance with the concept of sustainable development.

## **2.2. ANALYSIS OF THE PROTECTION REGIME IN THE SPATIAL PLANS OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE AREAS FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS „KOZARA“ AND „SUTJESKA“**

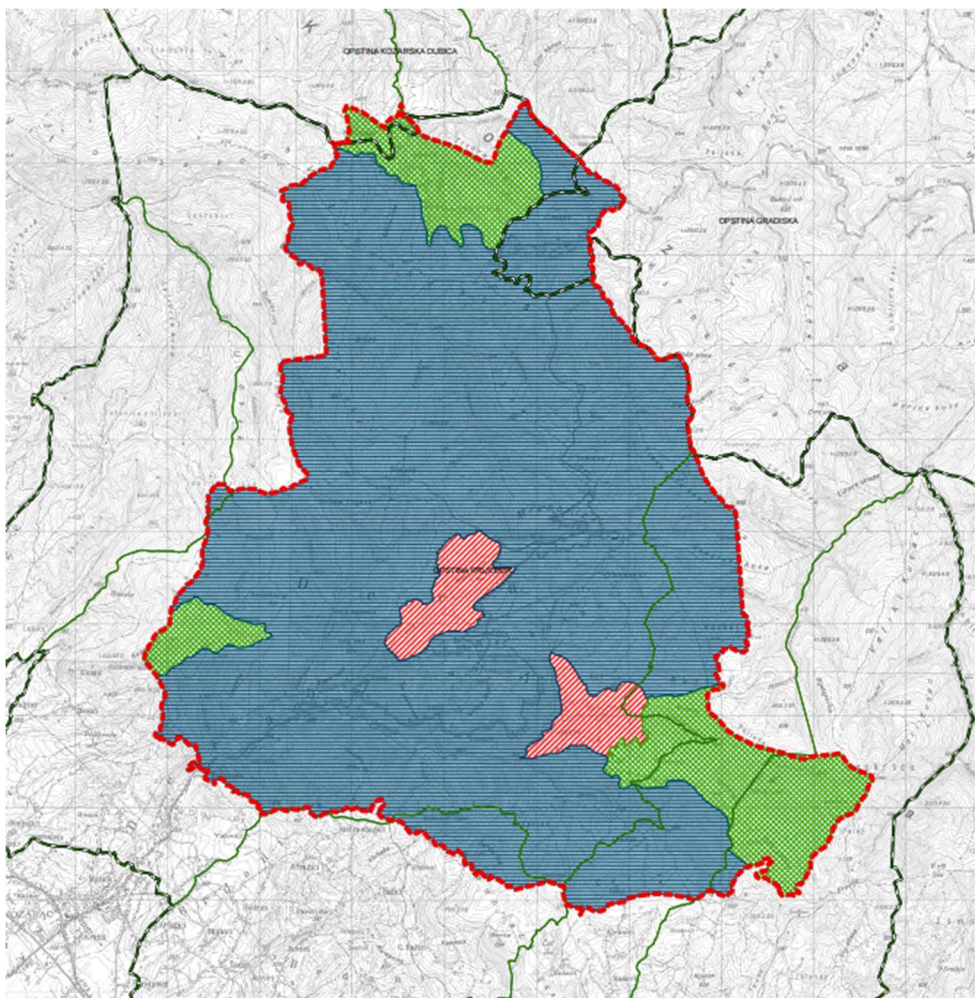
The protection regimes prescribed by laws and legislative acts are an integral part of spatial plans for areas of special purpose. Some are directly incorporated into the spatial planning document itself, while others need to be adjusted depending on the development concept and specific characteristics of the area of special purpose.

Spatial plans for areas of special purpose in protected areas represent the fundamental instrument for the protection and development of such areas. The spatial plan envisages full protection of all objects, sites, and complexes. When it comes to protection regimes, protected areas designate protection zones proposed by the Republic Institute for the Protection of the Cultural, Historical Natural Heritage on the Expert Basis - Study of the Protection of the Protected Area. The protection study determines the values of the area that need to be protected, as well as the forms of management over it [28]. The Ministry, upon the proposal of the Institute, may designate protection zones around the boundaries of the protected area, ecologically significant area, or ecological corridor, which may be determined when establishing the area or subsequently, in order to prevent or mitigate impacts. Protection regimes implemented in the spatial plan for areas of special purpose are prescribed by the Declaration Act of the protected area, based on the aforementioned Protection Study.

The Kozara National Park was first declared in 1967 and has since been continuously protected. Within the Kozara National Park is the Kozara Memorial Complex on Mrakovica, which was declared a Cultural Heritage of Outstanding Importance in 2011 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska" no: 125/11) [29]. The memorial complex consists of a central monument with a memorial wall and a museum. The surface area of the narrower protection zone is 11.38 hectares, and the wider one is 15.68 hectares [30]. The Law on the Kozara National Park was enacted in 2012 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska" no: 121/12) [31]. The Kozara National Park covers an area of 3907.54 hectares, of which 161.74 hectares are under the protection regime of the first level, 492.56 hectares under the protection regime of the second level, and 3253.23 hectares under the protection regime of the third level (Picture 1.). In the spatial plan for areas of special purpose, protection regimes are considered in a broader context. All segments that can influence the appearance and development of the protected area are taken into account, whereas the legal regulations in prescribing protection regimes did not consider any development segment. In the



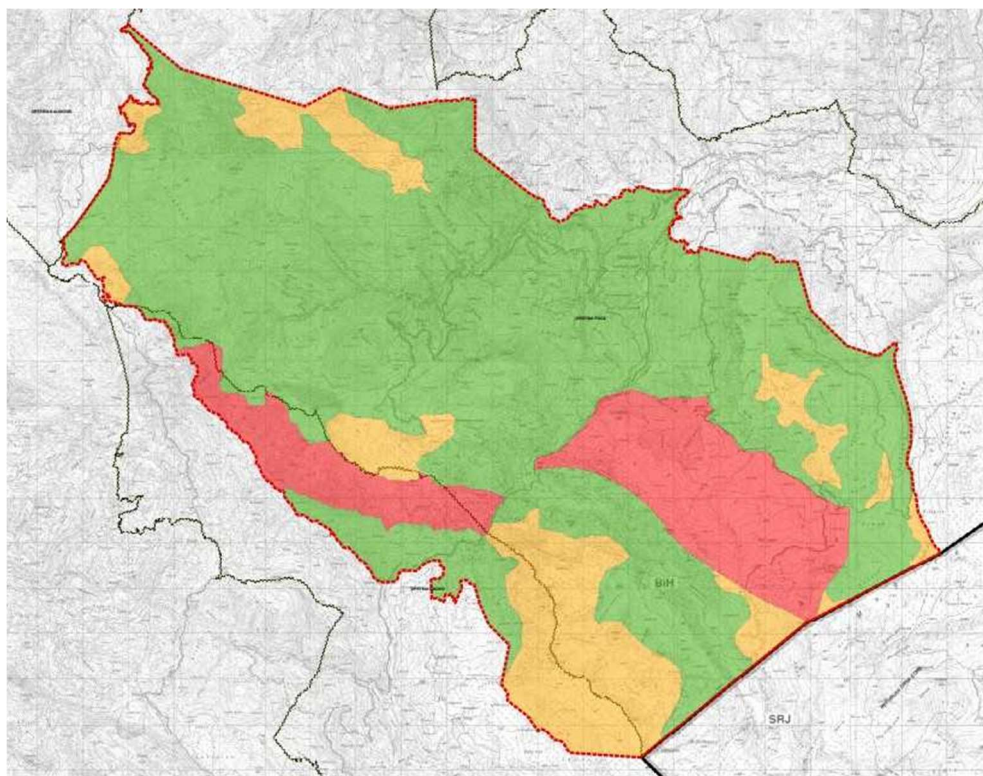
spatial plan, the rules for development and construction are more specifically defined compared to the legal regulations. The rules for development and construction are particularly detailed when it comes to the zone where the protection regime of the third level is established, which plans the construction of certain facilities for tourism purposes (sports and recreation schools, new toll booths, catering facilities, accommodation capacities, infrastructure development and expansion for the ski resort on Mrakovica, camping sites, picnic areas, and others). Tourism is often planned in special-purpose plans as a complementary activity [32]. In accordance with the defined zones for the protection of natural and cultural-historical values, the basic functions of the National Park are also defined: protective, scientific-research, tourist-recreational, and educational. The basic functions of the National Park are carried out in the following spatial units: forests and forest land, agricultural land, zones of intensive use and visitation, and areas of infrastructure systems. In the spatial plan of the special-purpose area, zoning of the Kozara National Park has been carried out according to the purpose of space use: zone of intensive visitation, zone with existing facilities, zone of planned construction, ski resort zone on Mrakovica, Mrakovica memorial complex, and individual natural sites for tourism purposes [33]. This spatial plan of the special-purpose area does not include a section specifically addressing rules for development and construction.



*Figure 1. Zonation map of the Kozara National Park- the blue color indicates the third-level protection mode, the second-level protection mode is green, and the first-level protection mode is red (Spatial plan of the special purpose area for the National Park Kozara)*

Nacionalni park "Sutjeska" is the oldest national park in the territory of present-day Republika Srpska. The area was first declared protected in 1962 and has since had a continuous protection status [34]. The Law on the Sutjeska National Park was enacted in 2012, alongside the Law on the Kozara National Park (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 121/12) [35]. Within the Sutjeska National Park is the Tjentište Memorial Complex, which was declared a Cultural Heritage of Outstanding Importance in 2009 (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 90/09) [36]. The

memorial complex includes the Monument to the Battle of Sutjeska, the Memorial House, the Memorial Ossuary, and individual commemorative monuments. The area of the narrower protection zone is 70.5 hectares, and the wider one is 49.5 hectares [37]. The Sutjeska National Park covers an area of 16,051.34 hectares, of which 2,375.82 hectares are under first-degree protection, 2,549.62 hectares under second-degree protection, and 11,126.17 hectares under third-degree protection (Picture 2). A spatial plan for the special-purpose area has been prepared for the Sutjeska National Park since 2015, but it has not yet been adopted by the relevant institutions. Just like in the previously mentioned spatial plan for special-purpose areas, in this plan for the Sutjeska National Park, protection regimes are considered in a broader context. In the spatial plan for the special-purpose area of the Sutjeska National Park, the rules of organization and construction are more detailed compared to the legal regulations [38]. The rules of organization and construction are significantly more detailed in areas where the third-degree protection regime is established, where the construction of facilities for tourism purposes is planned. In accordance with the defined zones of protection of natural and cultural-historical values, the basic functions of the National Park are also defined: protective, scientific-research, tourist-recreational, and educational. The basic functions of the National Park are carried out in the following spatial units: forests and forest land, Perućica, agricultural land, zones of intensive use and visitation, and areas of infrastructure systems. In this spatial plan, the rules of organization and construction are specified in the Zone with the protection regime of the third degree, which relate to: construction of facilities, organization and use of space in tourist-recreational sites, conditions for construction, shaping, and arrangement of facilities at rest areas and open spaces; conditions for construction, arrangement, and use of land on micro-dams and reservoirs; conditions for the reconstruction of existing zones of vacation houses and recreational facilities within the boundaries of the National Park.



*Figure 2. Zonation map of the Sutjeska National Park – the third level protection mode is indicated in green, the second level protection mode in yellow, and the first level protection mode in red (Spatial plan of the special purpose area for the National Park Sutjeska)*

When analyzing both spatial plans of special purpose areas for the "Kozara" National Park and the "Sutjeska" National Park, it was observed that the plans met the legally prescribed form of the plan. The planning and construction rules are specified in the plans, which serve as the basis and guidelines for the preparation of implementing documents. By implementation documents, we mean zoning plans, regulation plans, urban projects, and subdivision plans. The spatial plan of the special purpose area for the "Kozara" National Park served as the basis for defining the further development

of the park, its organization, and its arrangement, as well as for the adoption of a document in the field of spatial planning. The priorities for creating spatial planning documents for NP "Kozara" are:

- zoning plan of the special purpose area of the Republic of Srpska;
  - development of regulatory plans for the picnic area Benkovac and Duge njive;
  - preparation of the regulation plan of the Mrakovica ski resort, if there is a new construction and a change in regulation;
  - development of regulatory plans for eco-lodge settlements in Grabovac, Kustaic-stanovi, and Razboj locations;
  - creation of regulatory plans or plans for the subdivision of camps in the localities Pasini Konaci, Stara Planina, Planiste, and Glavusa.

Spatial planning documents, which are listed as priorities for adoption according to the Spatial Plan of the special purpose area for the "Kozara" National Park, have been prepared and adopted, which makes it easier for the Park to control construction within its borders. The spatial plan of the special purpose area for the "Sutjeska" National Park was prepared in 2014 but was not adopted, which represents a huge problem for the management, development, and protection of the park. "Sutjeska" National Park is the oldest national park in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but due to the lack of spatial planning documentation, it is the most endangered. It is primarily endangered due to the construction of small hydroelectric power plants that are planned within the boundaries of the park but also in the immediate vicinity of the borders. In addition to small hydroelectric power plants, wild, illegal construction on the territory of the park poses a threat to the park. From all of the above, we see how important it is to establish protection regimes in the protected area, but also how important it is to have spatial planning documents that will enable guidelines for the arrangement and construction of the space to be adopted. Only with strategic planning will we be able to preserve protected areas that we will pass on to the next generation.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The plans for the special purpose areas of the Kozara and Sutjeska National Parks provide a framework for implementing the provisions prescribed by the Law on Nature Protection, the Law on National Parks, and the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of the Republika Srpska. Further elaboration of the provisions of the laws, prescribing rules for the organization and construction of tourist facilities and accompanying infrastructure, helps to resolve conflicts that may arise in the area due to the existence of other spatial purposes besides the dominant one. Through protection regimes in spatial plans for special-purpose areas, the impact of the dominant special purpose on other spatial purposes is considered, and the prescribed rules of organization reduce the possibility of negative environmental impact, thus providing opportunities for sustainable use of space by users. Protected areas in the territory of Republika Srpska cannot boast of the timeliness of spatial planning documents. Only a few protected areas have adopted any spatial planning documents. In the territory of Republika Srpska, according to current legislation, there are a total of 34 protected areas, including: two strict nature reserves, three national parks, seventeen natural monuments, three protected habitats, six nature parks, and three resource management areas. Out of the mentioned 34 protected areas, only one has adopted a spatial plan for special-purpose areas, and that is the Kozara National Park. Through this paper, spatial planning documents and protection zones in two of the three national parks of Republika Srpska were analyzed, and the effects of spatial planning documentation on construction in the protected area were considered. "Kozara" National Park, which has adopted the strategic document Spatial Plan of Special Purpose Areas, has drawn up implementation documents based on it and its guidelines. On the basis of the completed spatial planning documentation, the park has been facilitated in monitoring the construction within the park's borders, which has resulted in a reduction in wild, illegal construction in the park. "Sutjeska" National Park records a period of poor business, which is a consequence of the lack of spatial planning documentation. "Sutjeska" National Park does not have a single document defining construction rules. As a result of the absence of the aforementioned documentation, illegal construction is taking place, which is increasingly being recorded in the park area, especially in the second and third protection zones. There is a conscious degradation of the environment because the construction of small hydropower plants within the boundaries of the park, but near the borders, is being approved, which has a direct impact on everything that made Sutjeska a National Park. While all the countries in the region and beyond are fighting to ban the construction of small hydropower plants and to demolish the existing small hydropower plants, in our country, the green light is given for the construction of the same in a protected area. Wild illegal construction in the national parks



of Republika Srpska is something that could be investigated and specifically presented through the next scientific work, which is the goal of this work. On the basis of this paper, the proportion of legally and illegally built facilities in the area of the national parks of the Republic of Srpska and the proportion of facilities that were built before and after the adoption of spatial planning documents should be assessed. The continuation of research for the national park "Sutjeska" should focus on the expected impact of the construction of small hydroelectric power plants on the environment. It is necessary to introduce certain subsidies and incentives to intensify the development of spatial planning documentation. New legislative solutions are a step further towards achieving numerous socio-economic goals through the adequate use of natural resources. Additionally, legislative support for planning and protecting natural assets and areas is necessary. Adequate planning solutions can significantly contribute to the preservation and improvement of the natural or living environment. Balanced planning principles and nature conservation policies are a prerequisite for the positive development of an area. Planning and development of protected areas should be based on existing capacities and values, and integrate them and all future planning solutions in the most affirmative sense.

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