

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

DURMITOR NATIONAL
PARK

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO



WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

DURMITOR NATIONAL PARK (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO) ID N° 100 Bis MINOR MODIFICATION OF BOUNDARIES

Background note:

Durmitor National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980, on the basis of natural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv). Formed by glaciers and traversed by rivers and underground streams, the Park is particularly known for the Tara river canyon, which has the deepest gorges in Europe, as well as for its dense pine forests, interspersed with clear lakes, and a wide range of endemic flora.

At its 20th session in 1996, the World Heritage Committee noted the following in relation to the property:

“The Bureau at its extraordinary twentieth session took note of the World Heritage Centre’s mission to the site The mission noted the rapid unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of the village of Zabljak and adjacent development The Bureau considered the situation at the site and decided the following: The Bureau (b) expressed its concerns over the rapid town development within the site and lack of investment in the Park infrastructure; (c) requested clarification of possible boundary adjustments under consideration; ...”

Further, at its 21st session in June 1997, the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, noted:

“... that the Committee at its last session had been concerned about the unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of the village of Zabljak and its environs and requested clarification regarding the boundary adjustments under consideration... The Bureau was informed that the Management of the Durmitor National Park have informed the Centre that their proposal to excise the 40 ha area around the village of Zabljak from the Park area had been approved by the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and that the Management wished to know whether the World Heritage Committee would agree with the proposed modification of the Park boundary..... The Bureau requested the Park Management to submit to the Centre, before 15 September 1997, a map showing the proposed modification of the Park’s boundaries to excise the 40 ha area around the village of Zabljak and recommended that the Committee at its next session in December 1997 decide whether or not the proposed boundary modification is acceptable.”

The information requested by the Bureau in June 1997 was not submitted by December 1997 and therefore the World Heritage Committee has not been in a position to make a decision on the boundary modification.

Following concerns over the proposed construction of a dam that would potentially flood part of the Tara Gorge and part of the World Heritage property, IUCN and UNESCO carried out a monitoring mission to the property in January 2005. At that time the mission team

made enquiries about the proposed boundary modification and requested the State Party to submit the relevant documentation for examination by the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee. The report of the monitoring mission is being presented in the State of Conservation report in a separate document to the same session of the Committee.

1. NEW INFORMATION

During the IUCN / UNESCO monitoring mission to the property in January 2005, the Physical Plan for the Durmitor National Park (Prostorni plan područja posebne namjene NP Durmitor (Sl. list RCG br. 20/97)), concerning the legal area of the Park approved in 1997, was made available to the mission team. This document was however not available in English. The mission was also informed that the borders of the property are defined by the Law on National Parks (Sl. List RCG, br. 47/91). In a letter to the World Heritage Centre on the 27 January 2005, the State Party submitted a set of large maps, which accompany the Physical Plan, outlining the boundaries of the National Park, although due to their size and number these are difficult to examine. In a further letter to the World Heritage Centre dated 28 February 2005, the State Party confirmed that this information was official and legally binding.

The State Party noted that the boundaries set in 1997 under the Physical Plan did not include the town of Zabljak within the Park. The total area of the Park was set at 34,000 ha which has been divided into three zones. Zone I, covering 3400 ha, is the most strictly protected area; Zone II comprises 25,400 ha, and Zone III comprises 5200ha. The latter being the area where various uses of natural resources are possible. The State Party noted that no map was available in A3 or A4 size to show the overall boundaries of the Park and the exclusion of Zabljak, and the responsible Ministry did not have the necessary equipment to prepare such a map.

The State Party explained that there were certain communication problems in the past due to the troubles in the region and they had never received the 1996 mission report. They noted that since the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning is now responsible for natural protected areas in Montenegro there would be no further communication problems.

2. IUCN COMMENTS

The IUCN monitoring mission to the property in January 2005 noted that the draft Management Plan for the Durmitor National Park (2005 – 2010) (Program zastite i razvoja Nacionalnog parka Durmitor (2005 – 2010)), dated June 2004, proposes the enlargement of the

protection zones since the current borders do not include all the natural phenomena and unique natural features; for example some nature reserves and natural monuments close to the park and also a part of the Tara Canyon are not included. This enlargement should occur during the period of 2005 – 2010 on the basis of further evaluation and review. A list of ten additional areas is included in the draft management plan.

IUCN recommends that the boundaries of the World Heritage property be modified so that they are in line with the current boundaries of the National Park, as approved in 1997. Following the enlargement of the National Park, proposed by the Draft Management Plan, the State Party should inform the World Heritage Committee about the new boundaries and zones, and should consider whether those additional areas would meet natural World Heritage criteria.

Since the Physical Plan for the National Park was not in English, IUCN was not able to examine it in detail. IUCN recommends that the State Party ensure that the zoning within the National Park is consistent with the World Heritage Convention and should ensure that conservation is the main objective over at least three-quarters of the area and the management of the remaining area is not in conflict with that primary purpose.

3. DRAFT DECISION

IUCN recommends that the Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/8B**,*
2. *Decides to adjust the boundaries of the **Durmitor National Park** World Heritage property to be in line with the boundaries of the National Park approved by the State Party in 1997, thus excluding the town of Zabljak from the property. The World Heritage property, therefore, in line with the current boundaries of the National Park, comprises an area of 34,000ha.*
3. *Requests the State Party to submit a topographical map of the entire National Park on one sheet, and to inform the World Heritage Centre of what assistance it requires to prepare this map, and to inform the World Heritage Committee of any future changes in the boundaries of the National Park.*