

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1488

Pursuant to Article 142 (1) of the Nature Protection Act (Official Gazette No. 80/13, 15/18, 14/19 and 127/19) (hereinafter: the Act), the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, having obtained the prior opinion of the Ministry of Agriculture (Class: 011-04/21-01/20; Reg. no.: 525-05/0064-21-2) and the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure (Class: 011-04/21-06/1; Reg. no.: 530-03-21-4), hereby adopts the

ORDINANCE

ON THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE “PLITVICE LAKES” NATIONAL PARK

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Ordinance prescribes measures for protection, preservation, improvement and use, and determines the management zones of the “Plitvice Lakes” National Park (hereinafter: the National Park), including the measures for the protection and preservation of the unique universal value of the UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Article 2

Employees of the “Plitvice Lakes National Park” Public Institution (hereinafter: the Institution), residents of the National Park, real estate owners and holders of real estate rights in the National Park and members of their families, natural and legal persons who perform permitted activities in the National Park, visitors and other users of the National Park area shall comply with the provisions of this Ordinance.

Article 3

Real estate owners and holders of other real rights within the National Park and other users of the National Park area shall allow the representatives of the Institution and holders of official permits and/or other permits to perform public service activities for the purpose of nature protection, as well as to visit natural resources for the purpose of carrying out expert and scientific research and for the purpose of monitoring and performing direct supervision of the implementation of activities in the National Park and the fulfilment of prescribed nature protection conditions and preservation measures, unless otherwise prescribed by a specific regulation.

II. MEASURES FOR PROTECTION, PRESERVATION, IMPROVEMENT AND USE

Management and Management Zones

Article 4

The management of the National Park shall be carried out on the basis of the Plitvice Lakes National Park Management Plan (hereinafter: the Management Plan).

Article 5

(1) For the purpose of preserving natural values and maintaining the necessary level of management and manners of use, the National Park area is divided into the following management zones and subzones:

I. Strict Protection Zone:

Subzone IA – No Visitation

Subzone IB – Limited Visitation

II. Targeted Protection Zone:

Subzone IIA – Water Ecosystems

Subzone IIB – Grasslands and Mires

Subzone IIC – Cultural Landscape

III. Zone of Use:

Subzone IIA – Settlement Areas

Subzone IIB – Traffic Roads

Subzone IIC – Constructed Areas with Visitor Services

Subzone IID – Trails, Roads and Piers managed by the Institution

(2) The cartographic representation of the management zones and subzones of the National Park is contained in Annex I of this Ordinance.

Article 6

(1) In the National Park, the Strict Protection Zone (I) shall encompass those areas of natural ecosystems whose characteristics as well as the conservation status of habitats it covers have not been altered by human influence, which means that their preservation does not require any kind of active management measures.

(2) The goal of management within the Strict Protection Zone (I) is to preserve the natural processes and the naturalness of the ecosystem.

(3) The Subzone IA shall encompass three larger spatial units: the area around the rivers Rječica and Crna Rijeka, the area of the forest ecosystems in the north-western part of the National Park, including the rainforest Čorkova Uvala and the Korana River canyon downstream from Sastavci all the way to the village of Korana; smaller (scattered) sites: all caves and pits (except the path through the Šupljara cave, which belongs to the Subzone IIID), sites where the lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*) is present.

(4) Interventions and activities in the Subzone IA area shall not be permitted, except for research, monitoring and supervision purposes.

(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (4) of this Article, interventions shall be permitted in emergency situations (e.g. fire containment, elimination of invasive alien species, remediation of damage caused by extreme events such as pollution, accidents, etc.).

(6) The Subzone IB shall encompass the wooded area west (north-western slopes of Mala Kapela – Preka Kosa and Razdolje, Stubica) and north-west of Kozjak (Drage, Križi, Plitvički Klanac) and east of Kozjak (Medvjedak); the area east of the Prošćansko Lake (Prošćanski Vrh, Mala Kapela from Seliški Vrh to Vrelo Koreničko, part of the area of Visibaba and Borik); peaks and valleys between Uvalica and Rudanovac, Kosa south of Homoljačko Polje; Selište, Bačinovac and Kosa west of Brezovac, as well as Stajina and Kriva Draga.

(7) Activities and interventions in the Subzone IB area shall not be permitted, except for research, monitoring and supervision purposes.

(8) Notwithstanding paragraph (7) of this Article, interventions shall be permitted in emergency situations (e.g. fire containment, elimination of invasive alien species, remediation of damage caused by extreme events such as pollution, disasters, etc.).

(9) In the Subzone IB, limited and targeted visitation of very low intensity shall be permitted, under the supervision and guidance of the Institution, with the obligation of using trails intended solely for visitors.

Article 7

(1) The Targeted Protection Zone (II) shall generally encompass semi-natural ecosystems, geosites and areas of cultural landscapes that, for the purpose of long-term preservation, require the implementation of active management measures for maintenance or restoration. This zone shall encompass the areas where the presence of people, in the past or today, has led to changes in ecosystems, so in order to preserve their biodiversity, it is necessary to implement certain active management measures. These are primarily areas of semi-natural ecosystems, which were created as a result of traditional forms of land use, so without such human influences, they would gradually turn into their primary natural form through natural processes and disappear. In addition to them, this Subzone shall also encompass certain parts of natural ecosystems, whose origin does not depend on humans, but in which people inhabiting the National Park area in the past and/or today have influenced their current state through various forms of use. In order to preserve their biodiversity, it is necessary to implement certain maintenance or restoration measures or to ensure the appropriate nature protection conditions are fulfilled when employing the existing forms of use.

(2) The goal of management within the Targeted Protection Zone (II) is to preserve and/or improve the state of biodiversity, geodiversity, cultural heritage and cultural landscape.

(3) The following activities shall be permitted in the Targeted Protection Zone (II):

- expert and scientific research, monitoring of the state of natural values, and supervision of the area by the Institution, as well as the implementation of active measures aimed at preserving and improving the state of the ecosystem, geosites and cultural heritage;

- agricultural activities taking place in accordance with the objectives of preserving the natural and cultural values of the protected area while complying the prescribed preservation measures;

- visitation in compliance with the specific regulations of the Institution and the appropriate conditions prescribed therein, depending on the objectives of protection;

- establishment of minimum interpretive and educational content, as well as access paths that do not require management, except for activities necessary for maintaining the safety of visitors (fences, removal of dangerous trees along the trails, etc.);

- interventions in the area that are carried out exclusively for the purpose of implementing active measures aimed at preserving and improving the state of ecosystems, geosites, cultural and historical sites and cultural landscape.

(4) The Subzone IIA shall encompass the entire lake system, active tufa barriers, the majority of permanent and occasional watercourses, and smaller (scattered) sites of aquatic habitats: puddles, wells and swampy sites.

(5) The following activities shall be permitted in the Subzone IIA:

- implementation of active management measures aimed at preserving the aquatic ecosystems in order to prevent eutrophication, succession, etc.; it is also possible to implement measures to restore certain significantly altered parts of the habitat for the purpose of protection of certain species (e.g. brown trout) that require significant interventions in the area (e.g. demolition of dams);

- limited and targeted visitation, with the obligation of using trails intended solely for visitors.

(6) The Subzone IIB shall encompass grasslands and mires, and areas adjacent to grasslands and mires important for the preservation of target species of the ecological network Natura 2000, forest clearings and marginal forest areas along forest trails and roads, as well as all areas that are essentially forests (forests created by progressive succession), which are classified in the cadastre as meadow cultures, pastures, etc.

(7) The following activities shall be permitted in the Subzone IIB:

- implementation of active management measures aimed at preserving grasslands and mires in order to maintain biodiversity (e.g. stopping succession, etc.); it is also possible to implement measures to restore significantly altered parts or entire habitats for the purpose of preserving target and other significant plant and animal species;

- agricultural activities for the purpose of preserving grasslands and grassland-related biodiversity;

- limited and targeted visitation, with the obligation of using trails intended solely for visitors.

(8) The Subzone IIC shall encompass the traditional anthropogenically conditioned landscape around settlements with valuable natural and semi-natural habitats (gardens, homesteads, meadows and pastures, as well as other small-scale agricultural areas).

(9) The following activities shall be permitted in the Subzone IIC:

- implementation of active management measures aimed at preserving natural and semi-natural habitats in order to maintain biodiversity, i.e. maintain the traditional cultural landscape (e.g. stopping succession by grazing, mowing, etc.); it is also possible to implement measures to restore significantly altered parts or entire habitats for the preservation of target and other important plant and animal species;

- agricultural activities taking place in accordance with the preservation objectives of pertaining to the protected area;

- in cooperation with the owners and users of land, establishing favourable methods of use and avoiding methods of use detrimental to the landscape;

- limited and targeted visitation.

Article 8

(1) The Zone of Use (III) shall encompass areas of the National Park where nature has been significantly altered due to the presence of a certain level of use, and areas that have been singled out as the most suitable locations for various permitted forms of high-intensity use, all in accordance with the protection objectives for this area.

(2) The goal of management within the Zone of Use (III) is the sustainability of the current and planned use of the area in accordance with the preservation objectives pertaining to the protected area.

(3) The Subzone IIIA shall encompass all settlements within the National Park, including minor roads within the settlement.

(4) The following measures shall be implemented in the Subzone IIIA:

- compliance with the legal provisions and prescribed nature protection conditions that prevent negative impacts of settlements and construction on the ecosystems and landscape of the National Park (e.g. ensuring adequate water supply and the highest possible level of settlement waste water treatment, compliance with the prescribed degree of construction, etc.);

- all settlements and populated areas in the immediate vicinity of the banks of lakes and watercourses shall be planned with particular caution, taking due account to exclude housing, and especially the use of the area for hospitality and tourist purposes, except for those purposes established by the Institution at a distance of at least 200 m from the banks of watercourses, lakes or waterfalls.

(5) The Subzone IIIB shall encompass all state, county, local and unclassified roads in the National Park.

(6) The following measures shall be implemented in the Subzone IIIB:

- ensuring maintenance, degree of use, implementation of traffic rules and infrastructure that minimise the negative traffic impacts and risks in order to preserve the natural values of the National Park;

- road maintenance and removal of dangerous trees in accordance with the specific regulation on road maintenance for the purpose of ensuring traffic safety;

- ensuring the safety of visitors and property.

(7) The Subzone IIIC shall encompass all constructed areas with visitor services managed by the Institution, including hotels, restaurants, small park facilities, existing and new entrances, presentation centres, souvenir shops, retail shops, sanitary facilities, roads for sightseeing vehicles, paved sections of existing parking lots and facilities within them, ski resorts, and constructed areas outside of settlements necessary for the needs of the Institution (the Čorkova Uvala forestry service building, the Villa Izvor building complex, the Dr. Ivo Pevalšek Scientific Research Centre, and other facilities used for the purposes of managing the National Park). This subzone shall encompass all visitor infrastructure in the area of the lake system, Velika Poljana, Rastovača (Entrance 1), Hladovina (Entrance 2), the Mukinje ski resort, the planned entrance at Prijeboj, and the Borje restaurant.

(8) The following measures shall be implemented in the Subzone IIIC:

- achieving the highest possible level of energy and environmental efficiency, minimising the negative impact on ecosystems and landscape;

- rehabilitation of the parking lots at entrances 1 and 2 once they become redundant;

- Villa Izvor, together with the building complex, can be maintained and reconstructed as part of managing the National Park (to be used for educational, research and presentation purposes, and for similar accompanying facilities).

(9) The Subzone IIID shall encompass the existing hiking trails within the lake system (22 km) and hiking trails (37 km), as well as planned new trails with occasional widened areas intended for resting and experiencing nature that require certain maintenance and small-scale interpretive content; it shall also encompass unclassified roads and gravel roads as well as other local roads managed, used and maintained by the Institution, boat piers (three), planned pontoon bridge and waterways on Lake Kozjak. This subzone shall also include the route of the new

visitor trail (still undefined in spatial terms) which will ensure a one-way path when visiting Veliki Slap, as well as the planned new educational trail along the lower course of the Rječica River.

(10) The following activities shall be permitted in the Subzone IIID:

- activities for the purpose of ensuring the safety of visitors (installation of fences, removal of trees and rocks along the trails);

- establishment of new planned hiking trails within the Subzone IIID.

(11) The following measures shall be implemented in the Subzone IIID:

- ensuring the appropriate degree of use, rules of conduct and methods of construction and maintenance of trails and piers, in a manner that avoids negative impact on ecosystems and landscape;

- achieving the highest possible level of energy and environmental efficiency, minimising the negative impact on ecosystems and landscape.

Research and Monitoring

Article 9

Research into the components of nature and monitoring of the state of natural and cultural values in the National Park area may be carried out in all management zones.

Water Protection and Use

Article 10

(1) The development of the water supply system shall be based on securing the necessary water quantities from water intake structures outside the lake system basin and outside the borders of the National Park.

(2) The use of water for public water supply purposes in the National Park area shall temporarily be permitted (until the water intake structure is moved outside the National Park) exclusively from the existing legal and controlled water pumping stations.

(3) Until the water intake structures are relocated outside the National Park, water extraction shall only be carried out up to the environmentally acceptable flow levels for the watercourses and lakes where the water intake structures are located.

(4) New water pumping stations shall not be established in the area of the National Park.

(5) The public water service supplier shall submit to the Institution by the end of each year a plan regarding the construction and maintenance of communal water structures insofar as it is related to the National Park area, and by 1 March of the current year, a report on the implementation of the said plan for the previous year. Annual reports shall contain data on the quantities of pumped water on a daily, monthly and yearly basis, as well as data on losses in the water supply system.

(6) The public water service supplier that jeopardises natural values and causes environmental damage through their actions and activities shall eliminate the harmful consequences affecting the part of nature where the environmental damage occurred without delay and at their own expense.

Article 11

(1) In the area of the National Park, all habitats related to water, all underground and surface water courses, tufa barriers, wetlands (puddles, swampy sites, hydrophilic edges, mires, alluvial forests, etc.) and other water bodies or facilities, whether natural or artificial, shall be considered natural values and ecologically significant areas where, for the purpose of preservation of biodiversity and geodiversity, the following shall not be allowed:

- destroying active tufa barriers as well as those tufa barriers outside existing watercourses;

- raising barriers in the watercourse, preventing the flow of water or altering the water regime;

- draining, burying or otherwise affecting springs, sinks, puddles, streams, wells and existing man-made canals;

- abstracting and using water from watercourses and other surface and underground waters for irrigation of agricultural and other land (hydromelioration through irrigation);

- pumping underground water for public water supply purposes or for commercial use of water;
- disposing any type of waste and releasing dangerous substances.

(2) By way of derogation from paragraph (1) of this Article, the Ministry may permit certain interventions on surface watercourses, tufa barriers, wetlands and other natural or artificial water bodies or facilities for the purpose of restoring habitats and preserving the natural water regime as well as ensuring the safety of people and property.

Protection of Forests, Grasslands and Mires

Article 12

(1) The use of grasslands in the Subzone IIB Grasslands and Mires shall be permitted in the conventional (extensive) way in the form of grazing or mowing.

(2) The use of mires shall be permitted in the form of mowing.

(3) An additional measure for maintaining grasslands and mires is the removal of ligneous plants and alien species that are not suitable for grazing and mowing and pose a threat of overgrowing.

(4) By way of derogation from paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article, the restoration of significantly altered parts of habitats (partially or completely overgrown with ligneous plants) shall be permitted for the purpose of preserving target and other important plant and animal species as well as for preserving their favourable condition.

(5) Conversion of grasslands shall not be permitted in the Subzone IIB Grassland and Mires.

(6) Walking on the mires that is not related to its maintenance or scientific research shall not be permitted.

Article 13

(1) Forests and forest land are managed on the basis of the Management Plan and the National Park Forest Protection, Care and Restoration Programme, which contains measures for their protection.

(2) Deforestation and afforestation shall be prohibited in the National Park area.

(3) By way of derogation from paragraph (2) of this Article, in the Targeted Protection Zone (II) and Zone of Use (III), on the basis of the Forest Protection, Care and Restoration Programme, the Ministry may allow interventions that do not jeopardise the originality of nature, and such interventions shall be carried out for the purpose of ensuring the safety of visitors, residents, employees and property and for the purpose of preserving the natural composition of forest communities.

(4) On grassland areas that are in the stage of overgrowing (succession) and are not included in the Forest Protection, Care and Restoration Programme, the Ministry may allow interventions to implement active measures aimed at preserving grassland habitat types.

Hunting

Article 14

(1) Hunting activities shall be prohibited in the National Park area.

(2) By way of derogation from paragraph (1) of this Article, the Ministry may allow the removal of animals for research purposes, for the purpose of monitoring their state, or for other justified reasons, provided that this is in accordance with the Game Protection Programme.

Article 15

(1) It shall be prohibited to carry firearms or other weapons suitable for hunting in the National Park area.

(2) Only official and authorised persons may carry firearms in the National Park area, in accordance with specific regulations.

Fishing and Restocking

Article 16

(1) Fishing and restocking shall be prohibited in the National Park area.

(2) By way of derogation from paragraph (1) of this Article, the Ministry may allow selective fishing for the purpose of removing or reducing populations of alien species in watercourses and lakes, as well as restoring populations of native fish species (the priority being the brown trout).

Agriculture

Article 17

(1) Conventional and organic agriculture (animal husbandry crop husbandry, beekeeping and fruit growing) shall be encouraged in the National Park area.

(2) Field agricultural production using traditional crop rotation and combinations of crops shall be permitted only in the Subzone IIC.

(3) In the area of the National Park, it shall be prohibited to set up greenhouses outside the Subzones IIC and IIIA.

(4) For the purpose of plant protection, it shall be permitted to use solely plant protection products and fertilisers that are allowed in organic production.

Article 18

(1) Only native and endangered breeds shall be permitted in animal husbandry.

(2) Farmers shall have a certificate of rearing native and endangered breeds.

(3) Livestock grazing outside the fenced areas shall only be permitted under human supervision.

(4) When using dogs for the purpose of herding livestock, the person supervising the livestock shall ensure the safety of visitors to the National Park.

Article 19

Maintaining extensive orchards with traditional varieties shall be permitted in the Subzone IIC. Dying trees shall be replaced with seedlings of endangered and native traditional varieties.

Construction

Article 20

(1) Construction in the National Park shall be carried out in accordance with the spatial planning documentation and specific regulations governing spatial planning and construction.

(2) The following shall be prohibited in the National Park area:

- constructing buildings without an act approving the construction in accordance with a specific regulation regulating construction;
- carrying out construction operations without the permission of the competent authority for which it is not necessary to obtain an act approving construction in accordance with a specific regulation governing construction;
- installing catering and commercial equipment outdoors, except on private properties within settlements, without the approval of the Institution;
- setting up stalls or sales stands, except on private properties within settlements, without the approval of the Institution;
- setting up prefabricated building units without the approval of the competent authority.

(3) The approval referred to in paragraph (2), sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), of this Article shall be granted by the Institution through a concession licence.

Article 21

In the area of the National Park, interventions related to creating access to the banks of lakes, construction and filling of the banks and construction of piers shall be prohibited, except in the places provided for this in accordance with the spatial planning documentation accompanied by the corresponding act approving the construction.

Traffic

Article 22

- (1) Traffic on unclassified roads within the National Park may be restricted.
- (2) Limitations from paragraph (1) of this Article shall be prescribed by the competent local self-government unit with the consent of the Institution.
- (3) The Institution shall issue permission to real estate owners and holders of real estate rights within the National Park to use access roads with limited movement.
- (4) Prohibitions and restrictions regarding traffic in the National Park shall not apply to vehicles of authorised persons when they are performing official duties, vehicles of legal and natural persons that in the event of danger or accident perform tasks of protection and rescue of people and property, and vehicles holding a permit for movement granted by the Institution for the purpose of performing tasks covered by the permit.
- (5) Keeping and parking vehicles outside the marked parking lots shall be prohibited.
- (6) Guests staying in the hotels “Bellevue”, “Plitvice” and “Jezero” shall park their vehicles in the hotel parking lots.
- (7) Transportation of visitors within the visitor system of the National Park shall be organised by the Institution.

Article 23

- (1) Overflights of aircraft over the National Park may be limited based on specific regulations governing matters of civil aviation in the Republic of Croatia.
- (2) Aerial photography shall be permitted with the consent of the Institution in accordance with the specific regulation governing aerial photography.

Article 24

- (1) Operation of electric power vessels for the purpose of transportation of visitors organised by the Institution shall be allowed on Lake Kozjak.
- (2) Recreational rowing shall be permitted using the Institution’s vessels on Lake Kozjak.
- (3) Operating smaller vessels within the National Park shall be permitted for legal and natural persons for the purposes of carrying out expert and scientific research, monitoring the state of nature and implementing active protection measures, as well as for the purposes of infrastructure maintenance, with the approval and escort of the Institution's employees.
- (4) Prohibitions and restrictions regarding the operation of vessels in the National Park shall not apply to authorised persons who perform official duties, as well as to legal and natural persons who, in the event of danger or accident, perform tasks of protection and rescue of people and property.
- (5) Disinfection measures shall be implemented on all vessels and equipment that are not owned by the Institution in order to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

Article 25

- (1) Permanent mooring of vessels shall be permitted only in areas specially marked and organised for this purpose (moorings/piers) in accordance with the Management Plan and spatial planning documentation.
- (2) Temporary mooring of the Institution’s smaller vessels in the lake system shall be permitted exclusively for the purposes of expert and scientific research, monitoring the state of nature, and infrastructure maintenance.

Entry and visits

Article 26

- (1) Access to the National Park shall be given to everyone under equal conditions in accordance with the law, this Ordinance and the National Park Management Plan.
- (2) Visiting the National Park within the visitor system (Subzone IIID – Trails, Roads and Piers managed by the Institution), is subject to a fee paid to the Institution (by purchasing a ticket).

(3) An additional fee shall be paid for expert guided tours, tours guided by tourist guides, educational programmes and the like.

(4) The price list containing the prices of tickets and other fees from paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Article shall be included in the National Park's annual programme for the protection, maintenance, preservation, promotion and utilisation, or shall be adopted by a special decision of the Management Board of the Institution.

(5) Visitors of the National Park shall have a ticket during their entire stay in the National Park.

(6) Recreational activities, visits and other related activities within the National Park shall be carried out at the visitor's own risk.

Article 27

(1) The provisions of Article 26 (2) hereof shall not apply to employees of the Institution, persons residing in the National Park area, and other legal and natural persons who perform permitted activities in the National Park.

(2) For persons from paragraph (1) of this Article, except for employees of the Institution, movement within the visitor system of the National Park shall be enabled on the basis of an identity card or a pass issued by the Institution.

(3) Passes shall also be issued to other legal and natural persons who perform permitted activities in order to enable them to move within strict and targeted protection zones (Zones I and II).

(4) The conditions and manner of movement in the National Park shall be stated in the pass.

Article 28

(1) Visitors can enter the National Park visitor system only at places designated as official entrances.

(2) The official entrances to the National Park are:

- Entrance 1 – “Rastovača”
- Entrance 2 – “Hladovina”
- Auxiliary entrance – “Flora”.

Article 29

During the stay, movement and sightseeing in the National Park, the visitors shall comply with the provisions of this Ordinance and all instructions printed on the entry ticket, information panels and other signs in the National Park, as well as with additional instructions given by the staff of the Institution.

Article 30

(1) Within the visitor system of the National Park, movement shall be permitted only in areas and on trails that are marked and intended for sightseeing and visiting.

(2) Routes, direction of movement and places that can be visited in the National Park shall be determined in the National Park visiting programmes.

(3) Children under the age of 12 shall be allowed to visit the National Park only if accompanied by an adult.

(4) In the event of an excessive number of visitors at a particular locality, the Institution shall reserve the right to temporarily regulate and/or prohibit entry.

Article 31

(1) In case of extraordinary circumstances, such as a flood, heavy snow, blizzard, collapse of a trail, fire, removal of rock mass or trees, etc., the movement of visitors in the National Park area can be restricted or completely prohibited when it is in the interest of visitor safety.

(2) In case of occurrence other extraordinary circumstances affecting the preservation of natural values, the movement of visitors may also be restricted or completely prohibited.

(3) Prohibition and/or restriction of movement of visitors for up to 24 hours shall be made by the National Park rangers by a decision containing a list of prohibited areas, the reasons for the restriction, the duration of the prohibition, and the measures to be taken by individual National Park services.

(4) The prohibition and/or restriction of movement of visitors lasting up to 15 days shall be issued by the Director by a decision containing a list of prohibited areas, the reasons for the prohibition, the duration of the prohibition and the measures to be taken by individual National Park services.

(5) If visiting the National Park could endanger its preservation and/or the safety of visitors, the minister competent for nature protection can issue an order prohibiting or restricting visits.

Article 32

(1) In order to preserve natural values and minimise the disturbance of landscape, all construction, renovation and maintenance of visitor infrastructure shall be carried out in accordance with the guidelines and standards for construction, renovation and maintenance of visitor infrastructure.

(2) Legal and natural persons shall be permitted to place advertisements in the area of the National Park with the approval of the Institution and/or other competent authorities.

(3) In the area of the National Park, outside of Subzone IIIA – Settlement Areas, it shall be prohibited to place illuminated advertisements.

Sports and recreation

Article 33

(1) Swimming in lakes and watercourses of the National Park shall be prohibited.

(2) Underwater activities shall be prohibited in the National Park area.

(3) By way of derogation from paragraph (2) of this Article, the competent authority may allow underwater activities for the purpose of implementing active preservation measures, conducting research and monitoring the state of nature, carrying out technical maintenance of vessels and equipment, waste removal, and filming or photography.

Article 34

(1) Rafting, paragliding, water skiing, rowing regattas, sailing, driving off-road vehicles, climbing and setting up climbing routes, holding sports preparations and sports events, as well as taking part in other extreme sports shall be prohibited in the National Park.

(2) Riding bicycles, motorcycles and four-wheelers (quads) shall be permitted only on roads where public traffic is allowed.

(3) By way of derogation from paragraph (1) of this Article, holding sports preparations and sports events can be approved by the Institution through a concession licence.

Article 35

(1) Camping in the National Park shall be prohibited.

(2) By way of derogation from paragraph (1) of this Article, for the purpose of conducting research and monitoring the state of nature preservation, camping shall be permitted with the prior approval of the Institution.

(3) Setting up facilities for Robinson Crusoe-style accommodation shall be prohibited outside Subzone IIIA – Settlement Areas.

Filming and photography

Article 36

(1) Filming and/or photography for commercial purposes shall be prohibited in the National Park area without the approval of the Institution.

(2) The approval referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be granted by the Institution through a concession licence in accordance with the Protocol for Obtaining Permission for Filming and Photography in the Plitvice Lakes National Park.

(3) Filming and photography for commercial purposes shall be subject to fees according to the current price list, which forms an integral part of the Protocol referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article.

(4) Commercial photography and/or filming of material that does not contribute to the preservation of the natural and cultural values of the National Park shall not be permitted in the National Park area.

(5) It shall not be permitted to use unmanned aerial vehicles for the purpose of filming in the National Park area, save in exceptional cases subject to approval of the Institution.

Fire safety

Article 37

Fire safety measures in the National Park shall be carried out by the Institution in accordance with the fire risk assessment, the programme of activities as part of the implementation of special fire safety measures, and the fire safety operational plan.

Concession licence for the performance of economic activities

Article 38

(1) Concession licences or concessions may not be granted for activities related to visitor management that the Institution has registered in the Statute, with the exception of guided tours and educational activities for visitors.

(2) Activities for which a concession licence may be granted shall be the following: offering guided tours and educational activities for visitors, animal husbandry, mowing, beekeeping, creative, artistic and entertainment activities, sports and recreational activities, retail trade, photography and video activities for commercial purposes, and other related activities in accordance with the regulation governing the granting of concession licences in protected areas.

Other restrictions, protection measures and prohibited actions

Article 39

(1) In the area of the National Park, it shall be prohibited to intentionally pick, cut, fell, collect or destroy strictly protected specimens of wild plants, mushrooms, lichens and algae from nature in their natural range.

(2) The prohibition from paragraph (1) of this Article shall also apply to the use of all other native species of plants, mushrooms, lichens and algae for commercial purposes.

(3) By way of derogation from paragraph (1) of this Article, activities for scientific research and educational purposes, as well as activities related to the implementation of sanitary measures and/or the establishment of natural balance, shall be permitted in the National Park area, with prior approval from the Ministry.

Article 40

(1) It shall be prohibited to introduce alien plant, animal and fungal species, alien invasive and genetically modified organisms into nature in the area of the National Park.

(2) The introduction and repopulation of native species in the National Park shall be prohibited without prior approval of the Ministry.

Article 41

(1) The following activities pertaining to wild animal species in nature shall be prohibited in the National Park area:

- feeding, chasing, injuring, catching or killing;
- intentional harassment;
- destroying or taking eggs and keeping them, even if they are empty;
- destroying, damaging or removing their developmental forms, nests or brood;
- damaging or destroying their breeding or resting areas.

(2) By way of derogation from paragraph (1) of this Article, activities pertaining to animals shall be permitted in the National Park area for the purpose of conducting research and monitoring the state of nature, with the aim of protecting wild species of plants and animals and preserving natural habitats, as well as activities preventing serious

damage, especially to crops, livestock, forests, waters, in the interest of public health, safety of people and property, and for the purpose of removing alien species.

(3) The approval for conducting the activities referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article shall be issued by the Ministry, except in case of emergency intervention by the Wolf and Lynx Intervention Team in the Republic of Croatia and the Intervention Team for the Implementation of the Brown Bear Management Plan in the Republic of Croatia.

(4) The activities referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article, which refer to species from the game list, shall be carried out in accordance with the Game Protection Programme.

Article 42

(1) It shall be prohibited to light fires in the National Park outside Subzone IIIA – Settlement Areas or places that are specially marked and designated for that purpose.

(2) The use of grills, pyrotechnic devices and other devices with open flames shall be prohibited in the National Park outside Subzone IIIA and in the immediate vicinity of watercourses.

(3) In the area of the National Park, the Ministry may exceptionally, for the purpose of preserving the habitat, allow the Institution to carry out strictly controlled burning of small areas of grasslands (heaths).

Article 43

(1) In the Subzones IIIC and IIID in the National Park, dogs shall be kept on a leash and shall wear a muzzle.

(2) Bathing of pets in lakes, streams and rivers of the National Park shall be prohibited.

Article 44

It shall be strictly prohibited to dispose of all types of waste outside the places designated and marked for that purpose in the National Park area.

Article 45

It shall be prohibited to mark hiking trails in the National Park area without the consent of the Institution.

Article 46

(1) It shall be prohibited to take rocks, flowstones, minerals and/or fossils from nature in the National Park area.

(2) By way of derogation from paragraph (1) of this Article, the Ministry may allow the taking of rocks, flowstones, minerals and/or fossils from nature for the purpose of scientific research.

Article 47

In the area of the National Park, the extraction of tufa and the commercial exploitation of sand, gravel, stone, humus, clay, etc. shall be prohibited.

Article 48

(1) In the open areas within the National Park, outside of populated areas (Subzone IIIA), the permitted noise level shall be up to 50 dB during the day and up to 40 dB at night.

(2) Noise level restrictions shall not apply to noise produced by machinery or facilities for the performance of permitted works and activities nor to the noise on roads and/or waterways in the National Park.

(3) As an exception to the restrictions from paragraph (1) of this Article, a higher noise level may be permitted for events approved or conducted by the Institution.

Article 49

It shall be prohibited to damage and/or destroy signs, information boards or didactic equipment in the National Park.

Article 50

Smoking in the Subzone IIID – Trails, Roads and Piers managed by the Institution shall be permitted only at rest locations that are visibly marked for this purpose.

Article 51

(1) The Institution, owners and/or holders of other real rights on land within the National Park shall implement measures for the protection, restoration and preservation of habitats and the preservation of native species.

(2) The Institution shall inform the owners and/or holders of other real rights on the measures for the protection, restoration and preservation of habitats from paragraph (1) of this Article, and shall provide a 6-month deadline for their implementation.

(3) Protection, restoration and preservation measures from paragraph (1) of this Article shall be the following:

- measures to prevent lawn overgrowth (succession) by mechanical removal of woody species, mowing or other acceptable methods;
- measures to remove invasive alien species;
- other measures permitted by the Ministry and aimed at preserving the favourable condition of habitats.

(4) In case of non-compliance with the protection, restoration and preservation measures from paragraph (1) and/or the deadline from paragraph (2) of this Article, the Institution shall, by means of a written notification and its publication on the notice board of the Institution and local self-government unit, give to the owner and/or the holder of other real rights 30 days to implement the measures for protection, restoration and preservation of habitats.

(5) Upon expiry of the period referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article, the Institution may independently carry out protection, restoration and preservation measures referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article without compensation to the Institution.

III. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 52

Acting contrary to the measures for protection, preservation, improvement and use of the National Park prescribed by this Ordinance shall be punishable in accordance with the criminal provisions of the Act and the legal regulations in force in the Republic of Croatia.

Article 53

Upon the entry into force of this Ordinance, the Ordinance on Internal Rules of the “Plitvice Lakes” National Park (Official Gazette No. 38/96) shall expire.

Article 54

This Ordinance shall enter into force 8 days following its publication in the Official Gazette.

Class: 612-07/20-06/12

Reg. no.: 517-05-2-1-21-7

Zagreb, 17 June 2021

Minister

Tomislav Ćorić, PhD (duly signed)

ANNEX I.

MAP OF THE MANAGEMENT ZONES OF THE PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

