

New Wilderness model in the European context and concept of the “non – intervention” management in the Triglav National Park

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Nature
conservation



Protected areas



Management objectives



Wilderness



Historical background:

Nature → man → nature protection

- In prehistoric times people were rather insensitive to the beauties of the nature. People were aware and afraid about nature, wilderness in particular. They interpreted many natural phenomena as acts of gods.
- In the new era, humanism in particular stirred a yet undefined interest in man to acquire knowledge of nature.

Historical background:

Nature → man → nature protection

- At the turn of 18th century when during the Reformation Movement and Romanticism more and more attention was devoted to nature and landscape.
- Nature became challenge for scientists, discoverers and even artists.
- Nature studies became extremely important for research work and scientific findings in natural science.



Historical background:

Nature → man → nature protection

The idea to protect certain species or areas was spurred by the threat to natural values, and on the other hand protection was motivated by their outstanding value or rarity.



Historical background:
Nature → man → nature protection

Protected areas:

- 1872 Yellowstone (USA)
- 1909 11 national parks in Sweden
- 1914 Swiss national park

Wilderness?

- Wilderness, protected areas, biodiversity
- ALPARC Conference 2010

WILDERNESS AND BIODIVERSITY



Wilderness in the system of management objectives for protected areas

North American approach

- 1964: Act to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System
- Wilderness is the natural area where natural process run without man influence and people are just occasional visitors
- Wilderness area purpose is also exploring pristine nature

IUCN and wilderness

- 1984 / 1992 / 2008: Guidelines for Applying protected areas management categories
- wilderness protection was incorporated in system of classification for protected areas
- Category I b – wilderness area
- Wilderness is area of unmodified or slightly modified area, retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.

Wilderness in Europe

- 2000: Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories – Interpretation and application for Protected areas in Europe
- Regarding IUCN Ib category definition there is except Nordic region and some areas in Alps a general lack of large wilderness areas.





Wilderness in Europe

- No “big” tradition about wilderness protection in the frame of management of protected areas.

- * Exception is here in Engadin

- Wilderness is a term of human experiences and not ecological in a strict sense → wilderness may include areas exploited for a limited period in the past.

Wilderness in Europe

- Scandinavia → Finland

- 1991 – Act on Wilderness Reserves – wilderness areas are designated on the basis of this act and not on the basis of Nature Conservation Act

- Use of wood for a fuel and traditional picking up mushrooms and berries are allowed.

Wilderness in Europe

- Wilderness area Rotwald – Uhrwaldgebiet declared as Wildniss Gebiet Duerrenstein
- Alps → high mountainous areas and especially large glacier parts of such areas – different situation with a lot, part or no protection



Wilderness in Europe

- Scotland → since 1930 National Trust of Scotland has been involved in “wild land” protection.
- Nowadays Scottish Natural Heritage deals with adopted declaration “policy Statement on Wilderness in Scottish Countryside.



Recent movements and situation in Europe



- PAN Parks - new Network
- Protected area management with accent on wilderness quality and preservation of it / development of sustainable tourism and improving livelihood.
- Basic criteria – 10.000 ha of wilderness.

New wilderness paradigm / model

- Wilderness is understood also as a “non-intervention zone” in the protected area where all management objectives are orientated towards ecosystem protection and enhancing of natural processes in the area.
- We can clarify “new wilderness” as “non-intervention zone” where management objectives of the IUCN categories I b and II meet.

New wilderness paradigm / model

- There is much more experiences and good examples in European protected areas if we understand wilderness as a non-intervention zone inside protected areas.
- The importance is in “content” and clarifying management objectives where the “non – intervention” concept is followed!

New wilderness paradigm / model

- Resolution on Wilderness Areas - European Wilderness Initiative
- EC and EU member states are invited to take urgent action to protect Europe's remaining large areas of natural habitat with non-intervention management.

European Wilderness Initiative

- The initiative has been signed by all important nature conservation / protected area networks and several individual protected areas:
 - Europarc Federation
 - IUCN WCPA
 - Eurosite
 - PAN Parks
 - Wild Europe Initiative

Recent projects, activities and events

- Project wild heart of Europe
(Bavarian Forest and Šumava)



Recent projects, activities and events

- EU wilderness conference in Prague 2009



Recent projects, activities and events

- Europarc Federation established WILDERNESS WORKING GROUP – definitions and criteria have been just set
- Zernez – Alparc conference on wilderness and biodiversity
- Brussels conference on restoration

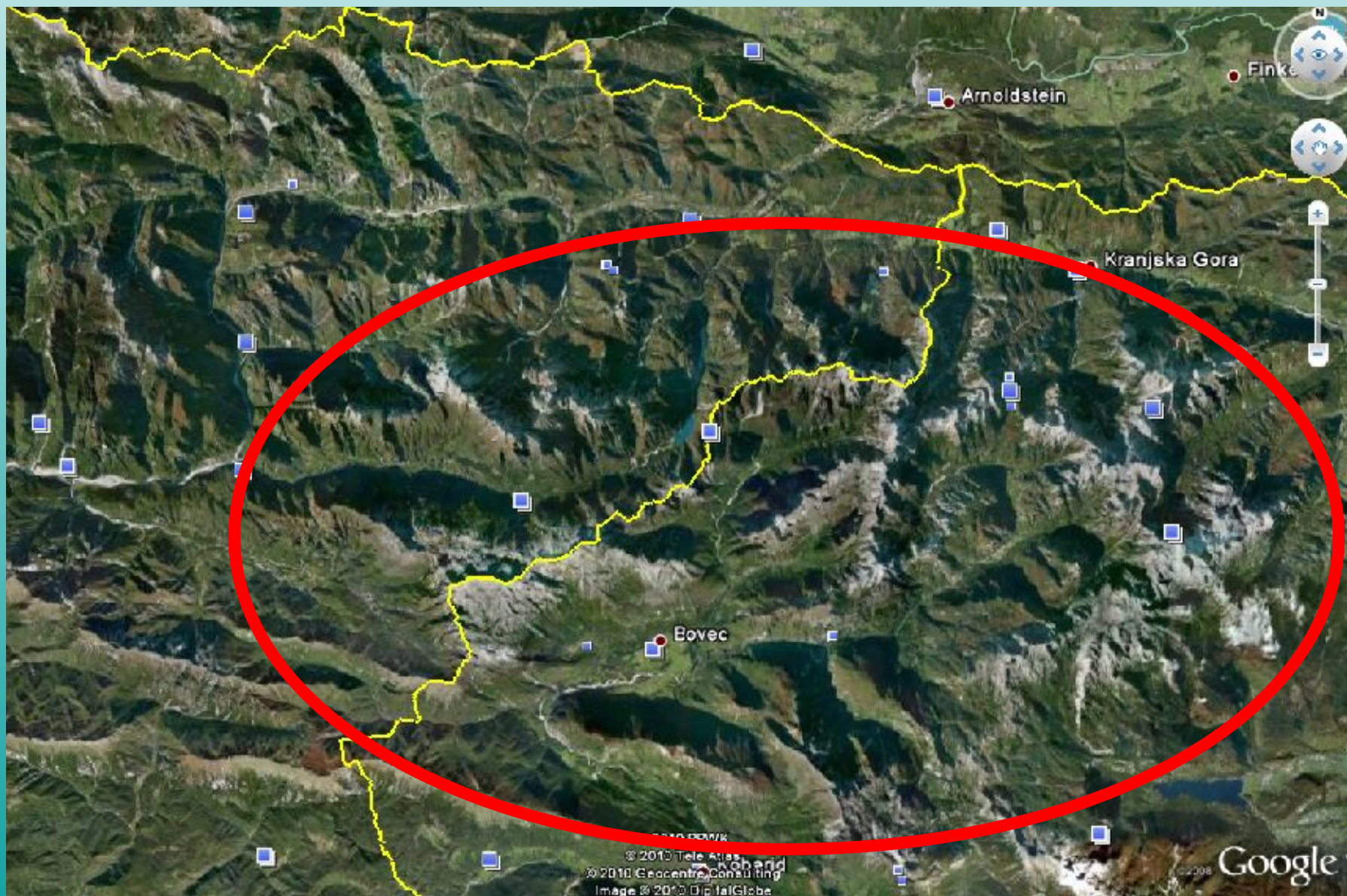
Vision

There is a clear vision to develop the network of wilderness protected areas in Europe and take care of the highest importance to protect the wilderness areas which jewels on the crone of Europe nature.



Challenges

- There is a challenge to find out how wilderness relates to biodiversity and to the Natura 2000 network.
 - Parts of Natura 2000 network have wilderness characteristic.
 - Parts of Natura 2000 network have favorable issue of conservation or enhancing “stauts quo” with active management and interventions.
- There is a challenge to work on wilderness concept in the frame of transboundary cooperation.



Reality

- Wilderness in sense of new wilderness paradigm is reality!
- Europarc Federation in 2007 submitted to EC DG environment a document “Examples of Wilderness in the Europarc Network”
- Examples with description of good praxis from Balkan, Middle Europe, Alps, Mediteran and Scandinavia are listed.

Utopia?

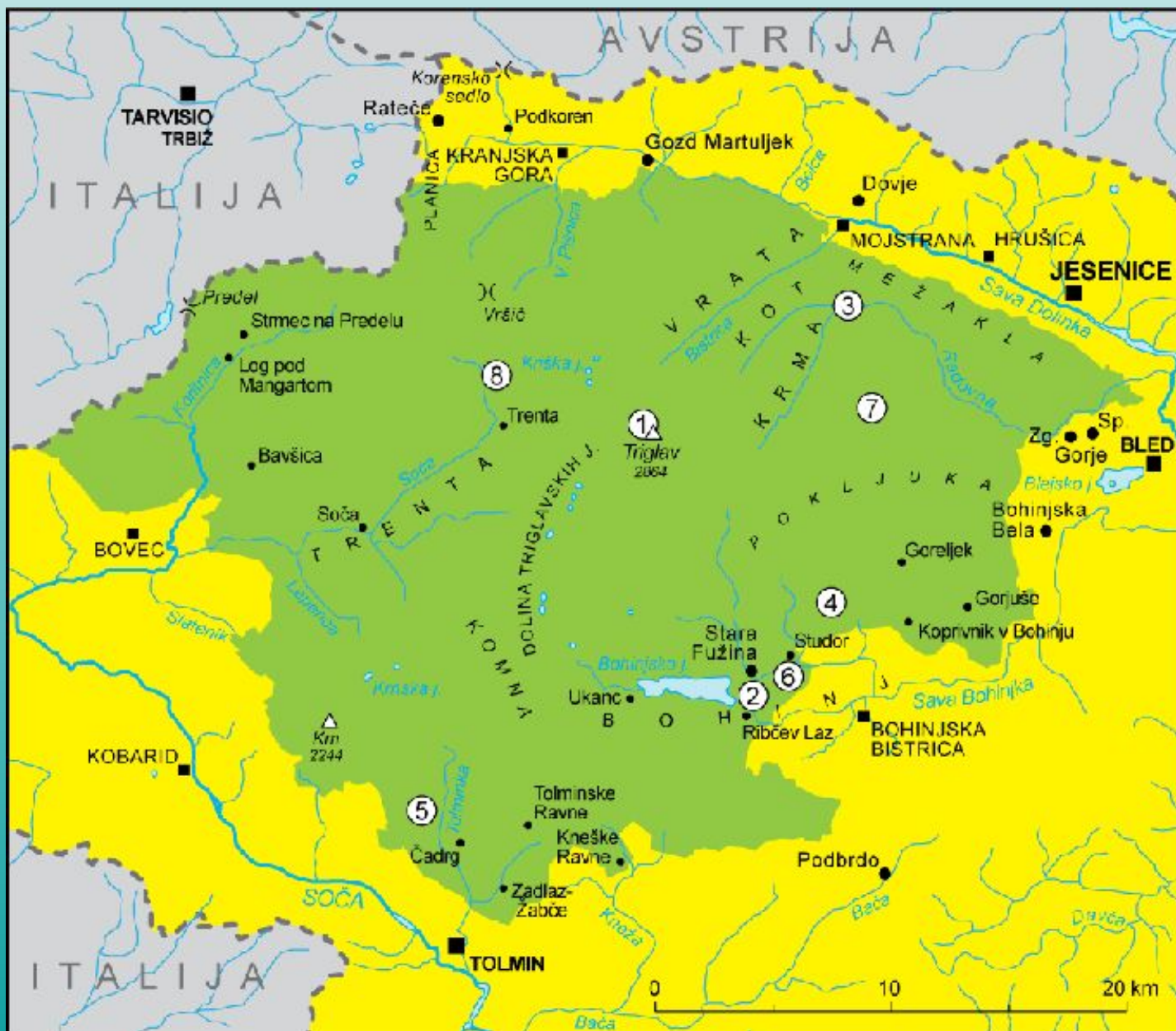
NO!

- Always in the human history there were many utopic (crazy, strange) ideas and many of them became reality and they are basis for mankind development.

Wilderness initiative may become a millstone in the nature conservation movement, policy and work and can ensure “existence” of the Earth for the future generations.

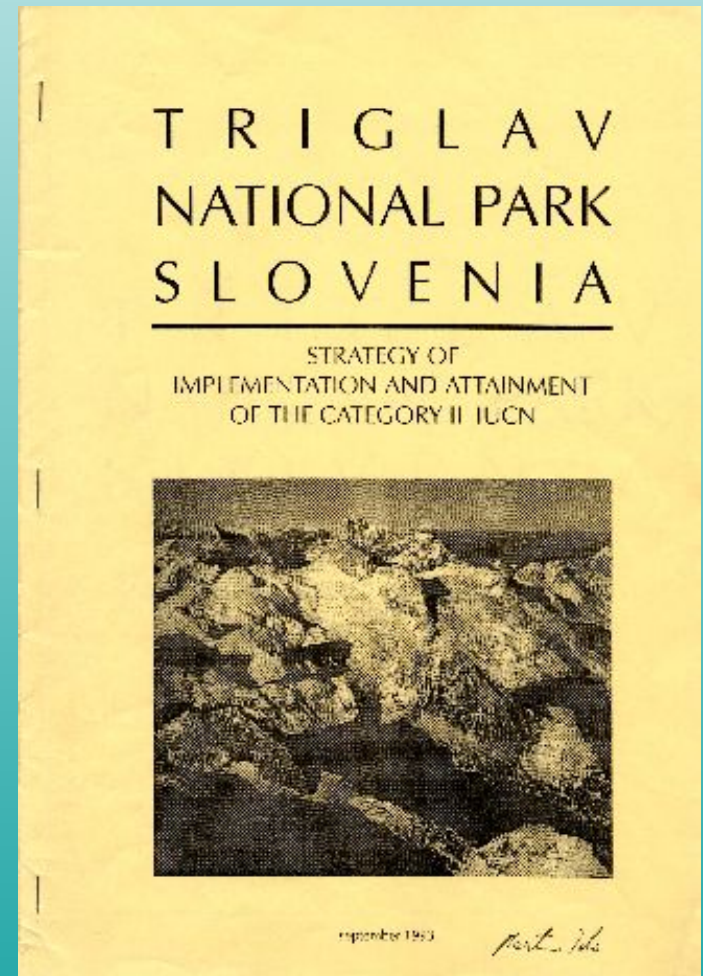
Presentation of management objectives of Triglav National Park

Concept of the “non – intervention”
management in the Triglav National Park



- In the 1992 – 1993 we prepared the detail analysis and already mentioned strategy of implementation of IUCN management categories objectives.

This was first and unofficial management plan but very useful and efficient document.



The main management objectives in core (non – intervention) zone independent of its size:

- nature protection
- ecosystem and biodiversity protection
- natural processes
- temporary limited extensive and traditional pasturing at strict allocated alpine pasture areas
- environmentally friendly recreation

In the core (non – intervention) zone there is:

- no hunting
- no forestry
- no agriculture and unregulated grazing, the only exception being occasional extensive use
- no fishing
- no energy use, except for few self-supplies (e.g. mountain huts or a single farm outside the settlements)

In the core (non – intervention) zone there is:

- no sand removal even if it causes the problems of erosion spots
- no settlements and no new constructions, with rare exceptions on pastures and for environmental recovery near mountain cabins
- visitation, recreation and events are limited, and further limitation options are given through the instruments of management plan



With step by step strategy we have achieved the enlargement of core or non – intervention zone as follows:

- till 1993 – 0 hectares
- 1994 – 16,700 ha of land set aside (first true IUCN Category II area)
- 1998 - 25,000 ha of land is to be set aside as Category II area
- 2000 – 2008 - with a negotiations with other sectors and all stakeholders Category II area (a non intervention zone) is in “enlarged process” – there were feasible possibilities and arrangements with the owners or land users concerned to reach the area size of 30.000 ha.

The main support of the described approach has been given by:

- Ministry for environment
- IUCN / WCPA
- Slovene Nature Conservation Act (1999)
- UNESCO – MAB programme
- Council of Europe
- EU and Natura 2000 instruments
- staff
- stakeholders

Described management approach was recognised as the proper one and has got reputation and award with:

- Designation of the Biosphere reserve Julian Alps in 2003
- European Diploma awarded in 2004
- Europarc certificat for Transboundary cooperation

And finally – this summer a new Triglav NP law was adopted in Slovene parliament.

Of course no law is perfect and there is no act with full acceptance – but the new Triglav NP law is giving now a legal background for the non – intervention concept / management in the park.

We've got new 1. protection zone with size of 31.500 hectares where the non – intervention management is in place.

