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UDC 502.14(497.4)

Review paper

Received: March 25, 2010

Accepted: March 30, 2010

Protection and Presentation of Cultural Heritage in the Triglav National Park and in Regional and Landscape parks in Slovenia

In Slovenia, the establishment of protected areas has a two hundred years long tradition. It modestly started off as protection of wooded areas and in time developed into protection of natural and cultural landscapes. In its institutional form, it originated in the Alpine World and as protection awareness increased, it was later applied to other areas. In Slovenia, there are one national, three regional and forty-four landscape parks. Six relatively large regional parks are still in the process of being approved. Less than a quarter of the parks is managed by professional management institutions such as public institutes (7) or limited liability companies (2). In all other parks, protection strategy and the physical protection of natural and cultural heritage is dealt with by competent protection institutions. Also, traditional forms of culture are strongly represented in nature parks, where they are researched by various protection, research and educational institutions. Unfortunately, in practice the interpretation of heritage and all non-material phenomena is much too often carried out on an amateur level.

Keywords: heritage protection, presentation of heritage, Slovenia

Slovenia has a relatively strong tradition of protecting areas of special nature protection and cultural significance. First attempts to protect natural areas date back to the beginning of the 19th century, to the time when the administration of Illyrian Provinces promoted forest protection. This activity was later taken over by Austria-Hungary which in 1837 introduced penalties for destruction of trees along roads and paths as well as various hunting and fishing regulations. Another important event was the visit of Frederick Augustus of Saxony in 1838. He was enthusiastic about the sites where the Daphne *blagayana* Freyer (*blagajev volčin*) grew in the proximity of the Polhov Gradec Mansion, a good 20 km west of Ljubljana. In the second part of the 19th century, the promotion of nature preservation awareness became more widely spread and soon reached large private estates. Karl Hufnagl, a forest engineer in the Auersperg

Forests in the Kočevje region, abolished the shelter wood system in use at the time and introduced a Plenter forest system. In 1888 he introduced an initiative to isolate remains of the rainforest in total surface of 305 ha, which has become a valuable natural heritage (Hazler 1999: 27).

The endeavours to make an inventory of natural heritage in forests were prevented by World War I. However, only two years after the end of the war, organised forms of nature protection came to light. At that time, the first legal forms for protection of natural rarities, animal and plant species were adopted and in 1924 the Alpine Conservation Park was established in the Valley of the Triglav Lakes (Dolina Triglavskih jezer). It served as a foundation for the establishment of the Triglav National Park – the only national park in Slovenia today. In fact the park has been developing for 73 years; it matured between 1908¹, 1924 and 1961. In 1981 (Peterlin 1985: 7-9), it finally reached its present form. The new and supposedly “more applicable” proposal of the Triglav National Park Act² introduces radical alterations.

In addition to the Triglav National Park, three other regional parks and over forty landscape parks of various importance and conservation orientation were founded in Slovenia since the 1950s. The national, all three regional parks and at least two thirds of landscape parks testify of a centuries-long human activity which modified these environments and due to which specific forms of farm and cultural life developed. These phenomena are a regular feature in ethnological, geographical and sociological research and are subject to protection measures.

Beginnings of institutional protection of natural and cultural heritage

The legal and institutional beginnings of contemporary Slovenian nature protection and the related conservation of protected areas are an adoption of the Decree of the Liberation Front of the Slovenian People, dated 27 January 1945, and the consequent foundation of the *Institute for Protection and Scientific Study of Cultural Monuments and Natural Rarities* (*Zavod za varstvo in znanstveno proučevanje kulturnih spomenikov in*

¹ In 1908, Professor Albin Belar (1864-1936), who gave the idea for the establishment of the Triglav National Park, proposed the manager of the expropriated church forests in the Gorenjska Region, the National Forest Caretaker Institute in Radovljica, to establish a “nature protection park above the Komarča Cliffs”. The responsible authorities considered the initiative, but never realised the proposal. (Peterlin 1985: 7).

² The proposal of the new Triglav National Park Act is in public hearing since the beginning of June 2010. It is strongly opposed by numerous individuals and the international association Alpe Adria Green that reject the proposed act on the Triglav National Park, for the members of the association believe that the act does not meet the expectations of the 2004 memorandum; the new act diminishes the surface of protected area and the effectiveness of protection measures.

*prirodnih znamenitosti*³). Already in 1945, several departments⁴ started to operate at the institute. Among them was the Nature Protection Department managed by the director of the Slovenian Museum of Natural History, Angela Piskernik, as an honorary clerk. Nonetheless, nature protectionists consider 4 March 1947 to be the actual beginning of systematic nature protection, for at that time, Anton Šivic (Peterlin 1976: 90) was appointed as a part-time forest engineer and remained employed at the Institute until 1954. He was succeeded by Piskernik who, after retirement, became a part-time clerk for “nature protection” at the institute (Hazler 1999: 63).

In the 1950s and 1960s, the profile of a nature protectionist was finally formed along with the work methods for protection of immovable and moveable natural monuments and rarities of zoological, botanic, geologically-paleontological, mineral-petrographic and geographic character. Nature protectionists, devoted to the protection of plants and animals, presented the work of their department (Hazler 1999: 63), carried out in-depth examinations of the terrain, set up a fundamental record of natural monuments and sites, and prepared proposals on the basis of which the, then, Ministry of Science and Culture delivered protection decisions.⁵ They published their expert articles and reports in the magazine *Monument Protection (Varstvo spomenikov)* (since 1948) and in other more natural-science-oriented magazines, e.g. *Proteus* (since 1933) and later in their own magazine titled *Nature Protection (Varstvo narave)* (since 1962).

In the 1970s, nature protection and protection of cultural heritage were treated separately. With the adoption of the Natural and Cultural Heritage Act in 1981, the two activities joined. They were carried out jointly until 1995, when the protection of cultural heritage remained under the authority on the Ministry of Culture, while the protection of natural heritage was allocated to the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning.

Overview of the formation of nature parks after World War II

Already in 1949, the monument protection service carried out the first carefully planned conservation of larger protected areas in Slovenia. At that time, Rakov Škočjan Carst Valley (Rakov Škočjan Landscape Park 2010) became protected as a natural rarity on the initiative of Pavel Kunaver, a natural scientist, and due to endeavours

³ Later, this institute got other legal clauses, but its operation was in fact based on program policies of the mentioned decree. Already the name of the institute demonstrated that it unified the work of immovable and movable cultural heritage protection and the protection of “priroda” (archaic for nature; term used at the time).

⁴ Their role was the examination of cultural monuments, initially artistic, archaeological and ethnological monuments and later urban and technical monuments. They were managed by professional or honorary clerks, all of them lead experts in their field of work.

⁵ For example for the protection of the Dvor-Hotemež tree park, the Piramida Hill in Maribor, the Maribor’s Island on the Drava River, the Zadnji kraj, a Carstic estavelle of Lake Cerknica, for certain areas in the Trenta Valley and similar.

of the first Slovenian professional nature protectionist, Angela Piskernik. A year later, the valley Robanov kot became protected by means of a similar decree, the credit for which goes to a local folk writer, Joža Vršnik – Robanov⁶ (Robanov kot Landscape Park 2010). The two natural rarities were protected as landscape parks as late as in 1987 (Robanov kot) and 2002 (Rakov Škocjan).

In the 1960s, the endeavours for the formation of a central national park increased. In 1961, the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Slovenia adopted a decree on the declaration of the Valley of the Triglav Lakes as a national park under the name Triglav National Park (Triglavski narodni park) (2,000 ha). With the new Triglav National Park Act⁷ the authorities increased the park to as much as forty times its previous area (83,807 ha) and provided it with institutional operation and protection. The seat of the park, with a strong specialist service and a surveillance service, is located in Bled⁸, while the seat of the information centre is in the Trenta Valley.⁹ In addition to nature protection, the public institute also focuses on the research of traditional farming activities such as ironwork, charcoal burning, alpine pasture, dairy-farming (Mihelič 2006: 65) and forest industry, as well as on contemporary forms of leisure activities such as recreation and tourism (Triglav National Park 2010).

In 1960s and 1970s, several new natural rarities and landscape parks became legally protected in Slovenia. In 1966, the Topla Valley in the Karavanke Mountain Range was declared a natural rarity by means of a special decree¹⁰. A year later the Negova Landscape Park and the Negova Lake near Gornja Radgona were protected and in 1971 the area of the Planinsko polje Field became a landscape park. Later in 1976, the picturesque area of the Ljutomerski ribniki – Jeruzalemske gorice became a landscape park. In 1979, the Šturmovci Landscape Park was declared by means of a special decree on promulgation and protection of natural areas and natural monuments.¹¹ In the listed parks the conservation policy is appraised differently: in the Topla Landscape Park the nature protection and the protection of cultural heritage are harmoniously intertwined; in the area of the Planinsko polje, the Negova and the Ljutomerski ribniki-Jeruzalemske gorice parks the stress lies on protection of natural heritage and on individual cultural heritage facilities. On the other hand, protection of natural heritage is strongly represented in the area of the Šturmovci Landscape Park.

A considerably more balanced protection of natural and cultural heritage was established in the new nature parks in the 1980s. What contributed to this situation was the new monument protection legislation (1981) that accelerated the integration of the

⁶ Joža Vršnik – Robanov published the booklet *The stories of the Solčava mountains (Zgodbe solčavskih planin)* in 1978 (Vršnik 1978), which is considered as one of the most original natural science or ethnological descriptions of the Solčava Region.

⁷ Official Gazette of the RS, no. 17/1981.

⁸ *Triglav National Park*, Ljubljanska cesta 27, 4260 Bled.

⁹ Triglav National Park Information Centre, *Dom Trenta*, Na Logu v Trenti, 5232 Soča

¹⁰ Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, no. 32/1966.

¹¹ Municipal Official Gazette of municipalities Ormož and Ptuj, no. 14/1979.

two activities under a central authority of the national institute and seven regional institutes for protection of natural and cultural heritage¹² and the two newly founded public institutions in the area of the Triglav National Park and the Trebče Memorial Park, later renamed into the Kozjansko Regional Park. In the 1980s, another seven landscape parks were founded. In 1984, the areas of the Tivoli Park and Šišenski hrib Hill¹³ in Ljubljana were initially declared a natural monument and a monument of moulded nature and somewhat later a landscape park. A year later, the area of Udin boršt¹⁴ near Kranj was declared a cultural monument and later on a landscape park.

In 1987, three extensive landscape parks were declared by means of a municipal ordinance: the Logarska dolina Landscape Park, the Golte Landscape Park in the Mozirje Municipality¹⁵, and the Nanos Landscape Park in the Ajdovščina Municipality¹⁶. In 1988, the upper current of the Lahinja River in the Črnomelj Municipality was declared Lahinja Landscape Park, which in 1998 came under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. After extensive research of the natural and cultural heritage, one of the most known parks was founded in 1989 – the Sečoveljske soline Landscape Park (Žagar 1987).¹⁷ In all of the above-mentioned parks, the protection of cultural heritage and especially the phenomena of traditional culture increased.

In independent Slovenia, nature parks were widely established. The democracy awoke the civil initiative which drew strength from large international projects such as Natura 2000. In addition, the provisions of various international declarations and conventions for a more effective involvement of the local population (Aarhus Convention in Slovenia 2010: 9) were and still remain very important.¹⁸ The Škocjanske Jame Regional Park was founded in 1996 under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. A few years later, in 2002, Cerknica Municipality founded the Notranjska Regional Park.

In this period, landscape parks were also being founded. The Boč Landscape Park was founded as early as in 1990. It was followed by the Strunjan Landscape Park, which was founded in the same year. In 1992, the following three landscape parks were

¹² Regional Institutes in Ljubljana, Maribor, Celje, Kranj, Nova Gorica, Piran and Novo mesto.

¹³ Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, no. 21/1984.

¹⁴ Municipal Official Gazette of the Gorenjska Region, no. 20/1985.

¹⁵ Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, no. 27/1987.

¹⁶ Decree on the declaration of cultural and historical monuments and natural rarities in the area of the Ajdovščina Municipality, 18 February 1987.

¹⁷ Official Gazette of the RS, no. 56/1999; Official Gazette of the RS, no. 29/2001.

¹⁸ Expert recommendations that were internationally accepted in Aarhus, Denmark, in 1998, regarding the access to information, participation of the public in the decision-making process and regarding the access to legal protection in environmental issues. The Aarhus Convention is based on a substantial development doctrine, in which one of the basic postulates is the attainment of societal consensus in the environmental decision-making process by including all interest groups into this process: the public authorities, civil society and the economy. The Aarhus Convention focuses on the role of the civil society – the supporter of a healthy life environment. (Aarhus Convention in Slovenia 2010: 13).

founded: the Jeruzalemsko-Ormoške gorice Landscape Park, Zgornja Idrija Landscape Park and the Rački ribniki – Požeg Landscape Park. Nature protection efforts of a biologist employed at the Institute for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage in Celje resulted in the establishment of the Kum Landscape Park and the Mrzlica Landscape Park in 1996. The establishment of the Kolpa Landscape Park in the Bela krajina Region followed in 1998. The latter grew into a park with a public protection institution in 2006. The Goričko Landscape Park with the seat in a spacious castle in the village Grad in the Goričko Region, which supposedly has 365 rooms, was founded in 2003. We should also mention one other recently founded park, that is the Ljubljansko barje Landscape Park, located south of Ljubljana and founded in 2008, which is currently in the process of forming its institutional and protection profile.

In Slovenia, the interest for the establishment of a wide network of mostly regional parks is increasing, however, the procedures for proving the significance of the parks and the procedures for declaring the chosen protection areas as parks are relatively difficult, particularly if future parks do not enjoy the support of the local population and the politics. Therefore the proposed Pohorje Regional Park, Kamniško-Savinjske Alpe Regional Park, Nanos – Trnovski gozd Regional Park, Snežnik Regional Park, Kras Regional Park and Mura Regional Park have been in “quarantine” for several years now. It all seems that they will not be declared as parks in the near future, since for example the inhabitants of the Pohorje area are strongly against the foundation of the park. In addition, the envisaged park along the Mura River is not in compliance with inclinations to exploit the river’s potential for a possible construction of hydroelectric power plants.

Selected examples of cultural heritage protection in national, regional and landscape parks

In Slovenia, there are almost none entirely natural areas where human presence could not be felt. We must therefore take into account that all nature parks will contain cultural heritage facilities, such as castles, churches, remains of the early industrial mining buildings, including facilities of traditional or folk architecture. In these environments humans regularly built, farmed, bred animals, built permanent and temporary housings and interfered with the environment in various different ways. On numerous grazing plains in the Alpine World, there is a large number of shepherd’s cottages and stables (for instance in the Triglav National Park), shelters for cattle (e.g. the Golte Landscape Park), various technical appliances, such as power plants, bridges, dams, roads and paths. In many places there are traces of ancient ironworks (Julian Alps) and glass production – *glažutarstvo* (Pohorje Region). In certain areas we can also find specific forms of traditional hunting of forest rodents (e.g. log hunting in the vast forests of the Notranjska Regional Park) and fishing (e.g. the area of the Lake Cerknica in the Notranjska Regional Park). With these activities people changed the

original natural landscape into a cultural landscape. Through traditional economic exploitation of space they established new ecosystems and characteristic forms of farming that are nowadays usually greatly endangered due to globalisation influences.

Numerous Slovenian and international projects were carried out in the area of nature parks in order to provide recognisability, conservation and protection of cultural and natural elements of space. In the 1990s, very reputed projects such as CRPOV¹⁹ (Prelec 1999; Kokalj 2002), Phare, INTERREG²⁰ and recently the LEADER programme, which is supported by Local Action Groups (Lokalne akcijske skupine, LAS), were carried out in certain areas.

Later on some of the most known nature parks where the protection is oriented strongly towards traditional culture will be presented. Without the mentioned elements it seems that numerous parks would not be able to fulfil their conservation mission and would not be able to build an integral image of park areas.

Triglav National Park

The Triglav National Park is one of the oldest nature parks in Europe (The Triglav National Park and the People in it 2010). Its protection structure is organised as a two-level protection regime: a more strictly and a less strictly protected area. Besides nature, natural rarities and monuments protection, the activities of the nature park also include the protection of cultural heritage in the area of which the park successfully cooperates with competent regional units (Kranj, Nova Gorica) of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia and with museums. Since its establishment, a variety of important ethnological monuments were renovated in the park area: Oplen House (Oplenova hiša) in Studor, Pocar Homestead (Pocarjeva domačija) in Zgornja Radovna, several shepherd huts on pasture plains (the plain Planina Za skalo), several facilities in the villages Studor, Stara Fužina, Soča, Trenta, Log pod Mangartom, Bavšica, Tolminske Ravne and others. A variety of artistic and historical monuments such as the Russian Chapel beneath the Vršič Mountain Pass, the Church of St. John near Lake Bohinj, the Church of the Holly Spirit at Javorca above Planina, several military cemeteries from World War I and others were also renovated. With the help of museologists, a museum collection presenting the lives of shepherds was established in a former dairy in Stara Fužina. Another museum collection was established in the Information centre in Log v Soči in the Trenta Valley. This collection presents various types of ancient houses, which are characteristic of the Trenta Valley and a reconstruction of a shepherd's hut from the Trebišna plain (Batič 1994: 36-37).

¹⁹ Integral development of countryside and village protection. The project started in 1990 and was concluded in 2002.

²⁰ This is an internationally supported project which endeavours for transboundary cooperation of Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary. Until now a variety of very well known projects were already carried out in the protected park areas in Slovenia.

From ethnological aspect, the Oplen House in Studor and the Pocar Homestead in Zgornja Radovna are especially important. They are in fact a life's work of an ethnologist and a conservator Vladimir Knific, who died in 2008. He managed to preserve two socially relatively different types of farm homes in their original location and transformed them into permanent museum collections with authentic furnishing. The Oplen House unites residential and farm premises under one roof which is characteristic of elongated farm homesteads in Bohinj (Batič 1994: 52-54). The homestead museum organises presentations of traditional customs such as the tour of *otepovci*, which are the only Slovenian masked New Year's carol singers. On 28 December each year, they gather at the mentioned homestead and visit all houses in the village.

Another frequently visited museum collection is the Pocar Homestead in Zgornja Radovna near Mojstrana, which is classified as an open-air museum. The homestead, which until 1672 possessed a rich house archive, is composed of a residential house, dating back to 1775, a somewhat younger farm building, a pigsty, a single hayrack and a well with ground water. In the summer months, the homestead becomes a central venue for the presentation of ancient peasant life (Pocar Homestead 2010).

Kozjansko Regional Park

On the other hand the Kozjansko Regional Park was founded on an entirely different basis as the Triglav National Park. Initially, this park was called the Trebče Memorial Park. It was considered as a kind of Slovenian counterbalance to the Kumrovec Memorial Park that was founded in 1977 and should serve as a "model" for the visualisation of Tito's cult. It was formally outlined in 1976 with a "social arrangement" and legalised with the Trebče Memorial Park Act in 1981 (Hazler 1999: 96-97). At that same time a public institute was established, which today employs historians, geographers, art historians, ethnologists, geologists and engineers for landscape management and operational workers for the renovation of cultural heritage.

The work of the institute is oriented towards the popularisation and preservation of natural and cultural heritage facilities. It organises and manages the renovation of monuments and natural rarities in cooperation with competent regional units (Celje, Novo mesto) of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia and with neighbouring regional and municipal museums. Several years ago, the institute and a competent monument preservation service renovated the birth house of Tito's mother, the Levstik's Mill (Levstikov mlin) in Podsreda, the Ana Kolar Homestead (Domačija Ane Kolar) in Trebče, several houses in the Podsreda square, several chapels and (religious) monuments along the road (*pil*) and other important cultural monuments.

The activity of the park was initially oriented towards the examination of events from modern history that were connected with the life and work of Josip Broz Tito. It later extended to exhibition activities, music events, literary evenings and research workshops (Bistrica ob Sotli 1987, Podsreda 1994 and 1995). Particularly the workshops

are very important for the further contemporary management of the park and for the development of various farm activities, such as annual fairs and the “Festival of the Kozjansko Region apple”, since they treat the historic farm and cultural image from ethnological, geological and architectural aspect. International panel discussions, regularly frequented by Croatian ethnologists (Černelič 2006), are also organised.

Škocjanske jame Regional Park

Already since its establishment in 1996, the public institute Park Škocjanske Jame endeavours for the preservation of biotic and cultural diversity. A lot of attention is devoted to the protection of movable and immovable property at which both the local population and the regional unit Nova Gorica of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia cooperate with great success. Jointly they have already renovated several important monuments (the Jakopin Barn) and participated in the revitalisation of the Vnckova Homestead (Vnckova domačija) in Matavun. For the latter an ethnologist employed in the park prepared a thorough research of the furnishing culture and prepared the basis for its renovation (Kranjc 2005). Even though the park's activity is mainly oriented towards the protection of cultural heritage, the programme is also oriented towards the protection of material heritage (Peric 2002: 80-85) and the conservation of non-material heritage, in particular the skills referring to the preparation of food in history and herbalism (Škocjanske jame Regional Park 2010).

Robanov kot Landscape Park

Robanov kot was protected in 1950 by means of a special decree. Its legal protection is ensured by various decrees and spatial documents. In practice it is ensured by competent conservation institutions for protection of natural and cultural heritage and above all by the local population. Several years ago, the local inhabitants together with experts from the Institute for the protection of natural and cultural heritage Celje renovated the Belšak (Belšakova domačija) and Pečovnik Homestead (Pečovnikova domačija) and participated in the renovation of the Govc (Govčeva domačija) and Roban Homestead (Robanova domačija). The local population also ensured that holiday cottages were never built up in the Robanov kot area and that the traditional forms of farming, livestock breeding, beekeeping, forestry and wood processing were preserved. They also ensured that the form of tourism present in this area is acceptable to the park.

Logarska dolina Landscape Park

For centuries Logarska dolina Valley attracted mountaineers and hikers from all across the globe. It is a glacial valley in which man settled already in prehistory.²¹ The contemporary settlement presumably dates back to the 11th century. However, the first permanent inhabitants are mentioned in the land registry of the Gornji Grad Benedictine Abbey as late as in the 15th century. In the 19th and the 20th century, alpine posts, holiday cottages and hotels supplemented the ancient farm settlement. It was due to great interest in the valley and the neighbouring hills that the process for the establishment of the Logarska dolina Landscape Park was initiated already in 1931.²² Organised protection endeavours were resumed after 1960 and in the mid 1980s when the interest for an intensive tourist utilisation (polo fields, tennis courts etc.) of the valley increased. An informal group of conservators from the Institute for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage Celje opposed to this activity by producing an integrated research titled *Natural cultural heritage of the Logarska dolina Valley, its protection and development (Naravna kulturna dediščina Logarske doline, njeno varovanje in razvoj)* (Hazler 1989). The research that integrally addressed the forms of farming, forest industry, soil exploitation, handicraft, nutrition, tourism and the development of the settlement in the valley served as a basis for the limitations of building interventions in the valley and as a basis for active involvement of local inhabitants in its protection and sustainable development.

In 1992, the local population obtained a concession for the management of the landscape park and established the company Logarska dolina d.o.o. This is a unique example in Slovenia and abroad (Logarska dolina Landscape Park 2010). In 2007, the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana and the University of London carried out an extensive research work in the area of the valley and the Solčavsko Region. Among other things examined were the handicraft, tourism and life in the valley (Clarke 2007: 28-30). The local population presents the visitors its ancient customs and habits in various ways and offer them original cuisine (e.g. *masounk* – a dish made of flour and cream) and present them various forms of farming (cattle pasture, bringing of wood etc.).

Lahinja Landscape Park

The Lahinja Landscape Park in the Bela krajina Region was founded after thorough examination of natural and cultural heritage and of the landscape at the source of the Lahinja River near Belčji vrh. The protection activity includes the traditional cultivation and use of farmland and other forms of traditional culture. In cooperation with the local population, the park provides integral protection of the heritage. In

²¹ The proof are the findings in the near Potočka zijalka Cave in which remains of Stone Age hunters and a cave bear were found.

²² Green enamel signs with the name of the park were already prepared, but World War II interrupted the endeavours for the establishment of the park. One sign was preserved in the Logar's granary until approximately 1980, but afterwards got lost.

the central information centre in Veliki Nerajec, it offers original cuisine such as the Bela krajina rolled cake (*povitica*), sour milk, buckwheat and corn flour ground in the farm mill, a characteristic roast *pečenka* – grilled lamb), traditional forms of transportation, handicraft (e.g. *gúdalo* (musical instrument), clay decorations, clay crib etc.) and other elements of cultural heritage.

Even though the park is not managed by a public institution, but only has an information centre, it is nonetheless also recognisable by its comprehensive promoting activity. In participation with competent protection institutions from Novo mesto the local population issued a number of leaflets, postcards, guides and vast monographs on the park and on individual cultural monuments, particularly the Pusti Grad Castle, where the All Saints Church, the Klepec Mill (Klepčev mlin) and a Venetian saw stand, the latter still operational.

Kolpa Landscape Park

The park extends along the river bordering with Croatia from Stari trg all the way to the village Fučkovci in the Črnomelj Municipality. The park was declared by the Črnomelj Municipality in 1998 and in 2006 it came under the management of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. Today, the seat of the administration – the public institution is located in the old school in Adlešiči, but it also manages the integrally renovated Šokčev dvor farm house in Žuniči. The significance of the park lies in great biotic diversity of the fauna and flora in the cultural landscape, which is characterised by *steljniki* (areas covered with birch forest and bracken undergrowth) and different forms of farm cultivation of the Carst world (Kolpa Landscape Park 2010b). With its programme activity the public institution builds primarily on the popularisation of material and non-material heritage and within the LEADER programme manages the project *Integration and training of the craftsmen and the development of craftsmen centres* the aim of which is to encourage interest in handicraft and to encourage the employment of farm women and young ambitious farmers (Kolpa Landscape Park 2010c). The institution regularly organises presentations of certain farm activities from the past, work and festive customs, provides for regular education of school youth and takes visitors through the park with its guides. Even though the parks devotes to topics that are subject to ethnological science, the public institution does not yet employ a full-time ethnologist. Unfortunately this can be seen already in the interpretation of cultural heritage, which is often amateur and tendentious.

Goričko Landscape Park

The Goričko Landscape Park is the second largest nature park in Slovenia, right after the Triglav National Park. It was established in 2003 by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and forms an integral part of a three-regional landscape park Goričko – Örsseg – Raab (Goričko Landscape Park 2010). The Goričko and the Prekmurje Regions are among the less developed Slovenian regions. For this very reason a variety

of natural sites and traditional forms of farming, livestock breeding, winegrowing, handicraft (pottery) and, above all, the picturesque architectural heritage accentuated by numerous wooden wine cellars (between the riverbanks at Filovci and Srehovci) were preserved here. Some viticultural buildings still have completely buried cellars, which are called *pivnice*, similarly as in Croatia (*pinica*, *pivnica*) and Slovakia (*pivnica*) (Hazler 2009: 183). In cooperation with competent protection institutions (Murska Sobota Regional Museum) and the local population, the park is directed towards the popularisation of natural and cultural heritage and strengthens international cooperation and promotion of traditional culture under the slogan “ethnological rarities”. The seat of the park is located in the village Grad, in one of the largest castles in Slovenia. For several years now, the mighty building is under renovation founded by European and state resources. In some premises they have already arranged various dwelling ambient collections presenting farm forms from farm and craftsman life. It is actually questionable to transfer farm and craftsman culture into what was once a dwelling environment of feudals (Šestan 1998: 241 also writes about this). But what is even more questionable is the annual event “Halloween” (Castle Grad in the Goričko Region 2009) attracting up to 20,000 visitors; unfortunately this completely artificially installed ancient Celtic festival mixed with North American commercialisation takes place on the very day when Slovenia celebrates the Reformation Day, which is in contradiction with the hundreds of years old Protestant tradition of the Prekmurje Region.

Sečoveljske soline Landscape Park

The Piran Municipality declared the area of the Sečovlje salt pans and the Seče Creek a landscape park in 1989. Numerous nature scientists, conservators and museologists examined and tried to establish the value and the significance of the area. They prepared several famous promotional exhibitions and issued expert literature due to which the public opinion shifted in favour of the preservation of this part of Slovenian coastal region. The park is an important habitat of rare, endangered and characteristic floral and animal species, since a typical salt pan ecosystem has developed here due to a long-lasting human influence. This area is covered with a more than 1000 years old network of channels and salt pan fields and over 200 mainly ruined salt pan houses. The landscape park is composed of a north and a south part, divided by the Drnica Creek (*kanal Grande*). In the north part of the park named *Lera* salt is still being extracted according to traditional medieval procedures (Sečoveljske soline Landscape Park 2010). The entrance to the salt pan museum is in the southern part of the park called *Fontanigge*. Here, a part of the salt pan fields with characteristic barriers and pumps driven by windmills was renovated. The park is in majority owned by the Republic of Slovenia and is managed by the company SOLINE Pridelava soli d.o.o., which employs five people and regularly cooperates with nature protectionist supervisors and competent protection institutions in Piran²³.

²³ The “Sergej Mašera” Museum Piran and the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, administrative unit Piran.

Ljubljansko barje Landscape Park

The Ljubljansko barje Landscape Park is one of the youngest parks in Slovenia. It was founded in January 2010, when legal basis for the declaration of the park area was prepared. Various protection institutions and individual researches prepared expert groundwork²⁴ pointing out its natural rarities and cultural heritage. The Ljubljansko barje Moor is in fact a result of thousands of years long coexistence of nature and human (find of the oldest wooden bicycle in the world). In addition, it is also important for reasons of a 200 centuries long tradition of hydromelioration interventions and a characteristic “internal colonisation” of the moor plain from the 1830s. Nowadays, the remaining of colonisation, primarily the farm and handicraft homes, are barely preserved. One of the last yet key cultural monuments is the House of Thomas (Tomaževa hiša) from 1844 (Bahar Muršič 2003: 26-27), which is facing ruin. The owner is against the protection of the house, and on the other hand the state and the neighbouring municipalities currently cannot gather sufficient financial resources to buy the house.

Jovsi Nature Park

The vast natural plain near Kapele along the lower stream of the border river Sotla is protected as a nature park. It was in this very place that the Sotla River often overflowed its banks and the spilled still water that remained there for days stunk horribly. Hence the locals called the area along the river with the name “Jovsi”, which derives from the German *Jauchsee* (*Manure lake*). The “Jovsi” covers approximately 4.5 ha of land and is nowadays a very interesting area from the aspect of natural science. The richness of this area lies in the great diversity of floral and animal species. There are over 60 bird species nesting in this area and their habitat is closely linked with the hundreds of years long soil exploitation. Every year after 7 June, the owners of the land regularly mowed the lawn and thus created a specific ecosystem to which both the animals and the plants adapted. Afterwards, in the autumn the humans collected willow branches for house basket weaving. After the social reconstruction of the population this original ecosystem started to disintegrate for which reason natural scientists protected the environment and encouraged the farmers to mow the grass by providing financial subventions. Thus one of the most specific protected areas that will presumably be transformed into an “eco-museum” will nonetheless be preserved (Šola 1996).

²⁴ “Expert basis for the foundation of the Ljubljansko barje Landscape Park for nature protection”, Institute of the RS for Nature Protection, Administrative unit Ljubljana, 2007; “Expert premises for the protection of cultural heritage for the Ljubljansko barje Landscape park”, Institute for the protection of cultural heritage of Slovenia, Administrative unit Ljubljana, 2007; Expert premises for the preparation of the decree on the Ljubljansko barje Landscape Park – Ljubljana Urban Planning Institute (Ljubljanski urbanistični zavod), 2007.

Certain protected areas of cultural heritage that are not nature parks

In addition to protected national, regional, landscape and nature parks there also exist the so-called areas of complex cultural heritage protection in Slovenia. Opposite to nature parks, this is in fact a kind of a monument protection²⁵. In these areas it is planned to maintain an appropriate settlement density and predominantly agricultural use of the area in order to preserve a quality cultural landscape (Areas of complex protection 2010).²⁶

There are quite a few areas like this in Slovenia they and are even outlined in certain spatial planning documents. Due to the fact that the work was predominantly carried out in offices and that outlining of the areas was done in the form of round elements, these areas got the name “small potatoes”, for the authors apparently did not follow the actual “natural” borders in the space, but outlined the area in the form of the so-called “cultural circles” (as ethnologists call them).

Despite the mentioned “artistic imperfections” there are some protected areas that belong to this protected complex where heritage protection activities have been conducted for several years now. This practice is known in the area of the Rogatec Open-Air Museum, the Pleterje Open-Air Museum, Račji dvor Open-Air Museum, which infamously decayed several years ago, and elsewhere. The best known protected area is the Rogatec Open-Air Museum which is the most successful museum from the programme aspect. Until 1998, the museum was managed by the local Society for the Arrangement of the Rogatec Open-Air Museum (Društvo za ureditev muzeja na prostem Rogatec) and later by the public *Institute of the Heritage of the Rogatec Area – Rogatec (Zavod rogaška dediščina – Rogatec)*, which is in charge of the promotion of material and non-material heritage. Among other things it is in charge for the popularisation of old crafts and handicraft. The museum provides for the renovation of over ten facilities on a regular basis and informs the media of its activity.

The Pleterje Open-Air Museum laid down a slightly different path. This is a museum which is located in immediate proximity of the famous Carthusian monastery since 1990. The Šentjernej Municipality gave the museum for rent to a private entrepreneur which has a store with handicraft and art craft products in one of the buildings. His domestic animal pasture across the vast open-air museum adds to its attractiveness.

²⁵ In the meaning of cultural heritage protection, which is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture or the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia.

²⁶ See research: Hudoklin, Jelka. 2002. *Ohranjanje narave in varstvo kulturnih vrednot ter prostorski razvoj Slovenije – zasnova (Preservation of nature and protection of cultural values and spatial development of Slovenia – a concept)*. Novo mesto: ACER, Spatial planning, project engineering and environment protection Novo mesto (Prostorsko načrtovanje, projektiranje in varstvo okolja Novo mesto, d. o. o.), Novo mesto

Conclusion

In Slovenia, all three protected park types cover 12.63 % of Slovenia's surface.²⁷ The parks in which the stress lies on the protection of natural heritage, natural landscape and individual natural reservations and monuments are in majority. The cultural heritage protection is represented in numerous parks, however according to certain estimates this proportion corresponds to that which the respected Croatian conservator and museologist Ivo Maroević used to estimate the relation between the work of conservators and museologists – according to Maroević the greater amount of work is done by conservators (Maroević 1993: 101).

In addition to well-conceived protection of important natural and cultural areas in the form of parks, Slovenia is also familiar with the practice of protection in the so-called areas of complex protection which clearly belong to the category of non-movable cultural heritage protection. In reality this is a systemic duplication of protection practices in large complexes which often causes inconsistency of integral protection endeavours. Therefore the protection of traditional culture should also be included in all types of protected areas, and hence also in national parks, for completely “clean” types of natural areas no longer exist. A common interdisciplinary approach would considerably contribute to better understanding of protected areas and the effectiveness of protection endeavours.

One large problem of protected areas remains a more or less distant attitude of the state protection institutions (monument protection institutes, museums) towards the everyday life in the protected areas. There is not enough cooperation between the lead experts and the local population in the form of education and required mentorship. For which reason all too many times only amateur interpretation of traditional forms of culture see the day of light, and this leads to cheap folklorism and populism.

The key to successful operation of protected areas is undoubtedly the local population, which must be allowed to participate in programme contents, but only under the condition that we ensure quality on the basis of previous experience and good practice analysis. Likewise, the local population has a special role in the heritage of knowledge and skills that lies in the preserving of old crafts, which as a consequence serve as a foundation for a quality renovation of cultural monuments and nature protection (e.g. production of wooden woven fences (*opleti*) along running waters).

Translated by Ana Hazler

²⁷ In Slovenia, there are currently 1 national park, 3 regional parks, 44 landscape parks, 1 strict natural reserve, 56 natural reservations and 1191 natural monuments. As much as 256,120 ha of Slovenia's surface are protected (Natura 2000 2010).