‘Bjeshkët e Nemuna’

Future Prospects for a National Park

Academic Year 2007 | Master Thesis
European Spatial Planning and Regional Development
Supervisor Professor Lars Emmelin
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### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AAK –</td>
<td>(Aleanca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës / Alliance for Kosovo’s Future, political party)</td>
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<td>AGRIFOR –</td>
<td>AGRIFOR Consult is a Belgian consulting company</td>
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<td>BN –</td>
<td>Bjeshkët e Nemuna</td>
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<td>BPP –</td>
<td>The Balkans Peace Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAR –</td>
<td>European Agency for Reconstruction</td>
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<td>FAO –</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation of the Unites Nations</td>
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<td>IUCN –</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>KINEP –</td>
<td>Kosovo/a Institute for Nature and Environmental Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KISP –</td>
<td>Kosovo/a Institute for Spatial Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSPA –</td>
<td>Kosovo/a – former Social Provincial Autonomy</td>
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<td>LAC –</td>
<td>Limits of Acceptable Change</td>
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<td>LDK –</td>
<td>(Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës /Democratic League of Kosovo/a, political party)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSG –</td>
<td>Local Self-Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAFRD –</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA –</td>
<td>Municipal Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>MESP –</td>
<td>Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning</td>
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<td>NGO –</td>
<td>Non Government Organisations</td>
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<td>NP –</td>
<td>National Park</td>
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<td>PISG –</td>
<td>Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo/a</td>
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<td>ROS –</td>
<td>Recreational Opportunity Spectrum</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRSG –</td>
<td>Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo</td>
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<td>UNESCO –</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
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<td>UNMIK –</td>
<td>United Nations Mission in Kosovo/a</td>
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I. Introduction

I.1 Subject of the thesis

In a general overview of system I will describe the local governments, their structures, functions and responsibilities, and their relationships to the central government of Kosovo. At present Kosovo is a territory administered by United Nations based on the Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). Kosovo’s constitutional framework organizes the governing institutions in two levels, central and local government. Governmental bodies are currently undergoing a major transformation: first, consolidating the democratic structures and practices, including legislation and increase of effectiveness and efficiency; second, building transparency, democratization and accountability; third, decentralization; fourth, gradually transferring competencies from the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to the Kosovo Authorities and preparing the province for its final status as overseen by the 1244 Resolution.¹

Looking at the geomorphology, there are two main plains in Kosovo/a.² The Rrafshi i Dukagjinit basin is located in the Western side of Kosovo/a, and on the Eastern side is the Plain of Rrafshi i Kosovë. The Eastern Plain also occupies the central area of Kosovo. Much of Kosovo's surrounding terrain is rugged. The Shar Mountain is a mountain range that is located in the South end extends in the East-West direction, bordering Macedonia. It is one of the region's most popular tourist and skiing resorts, with Brezovica and Prevallë as the main tourist centres. Another of Kosovo/a highest mountain area, including the highest peak Gjeravica (2656 m above sea level), is located in the West side, bordering Albania and Montenegro. The mountain range dividing Kosovo from Albania is known as the Cursed Mountain/Bjeshkët e Nemuna or Albanian Alps. The Kopaonik Mountain is located in the North, bordering Serbia. The central region of Drenica, Carraleva and the eastern part of Kosovo/a, known as Gollap, are mainly hilly areas.³

To trace more about natural values and cultural heritage of the Bjeshkët e Nemuna (BN) for this paper I will refer the study document of the BN in 2003, where it is shown firstly,

¹ Shala, D., (2007), Course paper.
² According to the UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99 under the UN interim administration.
³ According to wikipedia Kosovo, (Retrieved 2007, Apr 27).
the geographical position of this area, as well as the territorial dimension and borders of the BN.

**I.2 Geographical position**

Bjeshkët e Nemuna is extensions of the Albanian Alps from the North of Albania and the province of Plava and Gucia in Montenegro. BN are formed in the north peripheral part of Kosova and pull down vertically through the east and northeast in the end of Dukagjini Plain and Ibri Valley, whereas in the west they close highlands (border) between Albania and Montenegro. Uprising vertically from the Dukagjini plain, the big massifs of the BN offer a splendid view and huge tourism potential. The BN spreads on the north-south with 40 km longwise, whereas width does not extend over 26 km. From crosswise valleys, mostly on the canyon form, of Bistrica (Lumbardh) of Peja and Deçan, the highland massif of BN is splitting in three parts:

**I.2.1 North part**

To the North we find highlands set on north and northeast of Bistrica (Lumëbardh) of Peja, which gently lead-off on Drought Highland above Dukagjini Hollow and Mokra. From Mokra, this girdle highland sidesteps on the south-west and follows to the New Peak - Maja e Re (1812m), and from here it extends on the north and continues through Sight Peak - Maja Shiqimi (2155m) on Zhleb with Rusolia Peak (2381m). This group of highlands, further on the west belongs to Shtedim (2272m), Lajla (2400m), Shishka highland with Hasan’s Peak (1871m), Beg’s highland with Veleniku’s Peak (2015) and Poklen (1376m).

**I.2.2 The central part**

The central part of the Bjeshkët e Nemuna consists of highlands between Bistrica lake (Drini i Bardhë) of Peja and Deçan: Koprivnik with Cvrleni Krsh (2460m), Strelle Mountain with Strelle Peak (2377m), Qafa e Nekut and Mylishevc. On the west, this part
Bjeshkët e Nemuna
Future prospects for a national park

belongs to highlands (Mountain) of Drini i Bardhë with Red Rock Peak (2522m), Nexhinati highlands (2341m) and Starac (Old Man, 2426m).

Fig. 1. Map of the natural conservation zone in Kosovo/a (GIS, MESP, Kosovo/a).
I.2.3 Dimension and borders for the territory of BN

The proposed area from the Kosovo Institute for Nature and Environment Protection (KINEP) for National Park (NP) of the “Bjeshket e Nemuna” (BN) is above 50.000 ha and includes 4 municipalities: Peja, Deçan, Istog and Gjakova (the last two with the smaller surface). Peja municipality has 32.492.96 ha, Deçan 16.632.96 ha, Istog 1.805.43 ha and Municipality of Gjakova 1389 ha.


I.3 **BN’s values for tourism**

According to the web site of the Aragonite Speleo Association, at the border of Kosovo/a, Montenegro and Albania there is a huge massif of Bjeshkët e Nemuna with area about 3500 km². By means of the geological structure it is a part of the internal Dinarides, while this is not a continuous ridge, but a structure of huge plateaus (Brada, Maja e Rosit, Gjeravica, Guri I Kuq, and so on), locally with the relative altitude up to 2000m. A big portion of the cover formation of this massif is built by limestone sequences (mainly of Triassic and Jurassic age) in the nape position, which are locally altered by the metamorphosis (penetration of younger volcanic rocks).

Bjeshkët e Nemuna mountainous landscape includes many peaks in excess of 2,000 meters and several that are in the 2,500-meter range, as well as nine scenic alpine lakes at 1,900 meters. This mountainous area is rich in plant and animal biodiversity, with some elements not found in Sharr Mountains National Park in Kosovo. The proposed park contains the headwaters of two of Kosovo’s major rivers, the Lumbardhi and Drini i Bardhë. The recreational potential of the proposed park is very high in terms of downhill skiing, driving through the scenic canyon, hiking in the mountains, mountain and rock climbing, and whitewater kayaking in the river.

The highest peak of these hostile mountains, intersected by steep valleys in Albania is Maja Jezerce (2694), and in the part of Kosovo the highest peak is Gjeravica-2656. The plateaus are meadow in the upper positions, and some groups of peaks and ridges come out of them, locally with high-mountain holokarst of alpine type. Gjeravica is also the most prominent mountain of the eastern part of the Prokletije range (Montenegrin Mountains), which differs significantly from the western part, being milder, less rocky and more meadow. It is definitely something for those who like long hikes in remote areas, and those adventurous enough to roam into ‘off the beaten track’ destinations like Kosovo/a.

A Bjeshkët e Nemuna value includes Rugova Canyon (Gryka e Rugovës) and the spring of the White Drin River (Drini i Bardhë). The Rugova Region is situated in western Kosovo, northwest of Peja town, from the Peja Monastery up to Qakorë Pass. Rugova consist of

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third region of the Bjeshket e Nemuna in the north of territory bordering Montenegro, following this border with the area from Hajla to Rozhajë.

Fig. 3. The biggest cave systems in Balkan - Great Canyon, (source Aragonite speleo association, (2007)).

The river Drini i Bardhë divides the area in two, creating a small valley and running into a canyon, it's Rugova Canyon. “The Rugova Canyon was declared a Protected National Monument in 1988 by the Pejë Municipal Assembly, but has not been managed or protected in a systematic way.” According to the Aragonite Speleo association sources the mountain river Lumëbardhi formed the canyon in the length of 25 km, while the valley is one of the wildest and maybe one of the most fascinating at Balkan, and it has a character of a huge canyon, with walls up to 800 meters high, locally almost vertical and with towers even 400 m high. Approximately in the middle of this path, where the river cuts the block of the limestone with steps and rapids, there comes out at the Lumëbardh plateau (cca 70 km²) significant autochthonous hydrological vein, in the form of abundant lifted spring, which is in fact the beginning of unique cave system.

“Hunting in the area of the proposed park was reportedly heavy in the pre-war period, but has been light since then. Several restaurants were or are being illegally built along the river to serve tourists.”

Bjeshkët e Nemuna area this includes two major medieval sites of cultural heritage, Byzantine churches, the monastery of Deçani (1327-1335), and the Patriarchate of Peja (13th century). Both monasteries have been proposed to be included in the World Cultural Heritage List - UNESCO.

I.4 Structure of thesis

This thesis consists of fifth chapters, final conclusion and appendixes. First is the introduction, where purpose and enquiries are described. The second chapter, the process of history, consists of the process and procedures involved in the course of establishing Bjeshkët e Nemuna (BN) as a second National Park (NP) in Kosovo, within inside central and local government, problems as well communities in BN area.

The idea for a NP at BN was originated in the early 1970s. According to the first document for regional spatial plan in former Socialist Autonomy Province (SAP) of Kosovo in June 1972 in Prishtina, it shows that the plan to rebuild the centre for winter-sports would be very important for the tourism activity and for the development of the region as for all of Kosovo/a. Later a proposal was made to establish the National Park during the 80s. However, the act did not proceed to the assembly7 of former SAP of Kosovo at the time. The prospect of a National Park at BN is still a subject of a lively debate.

This thesis study is focused on debate to the question, “why is it important to protect natural values and cultural heritage in BN’ area?”, or “how to establish a NP at BN?” The concept for a national park at BN relies on passing the appropriate legislation, which would enable the usage of the existing natural resources at BN. Economic development and environmental sustainability parameters would be acquired through research of the potential number of tourists, types of tourist services, number of facilities needed, and the effect on the environment. In addition, using secondary and primary data, the requirements for tourism activities would reveal the potential need for a winter-sports centre and/or summer activities facilities. The development of tourism within BN as a NP should provide opportunities for the local population in the form of employment and/or small business development (farming and agricultural products).

The extent of economic cohesion with the local population should be maintained within an environmental framework of sustainable development. Expectancy of increased traffic through the park, transit and visitors, would accelerate cohesion with other urban zones along the border with BN.

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7 Assembly in SPA Kosovo has the competence to for NP’s establishment.
In summary, the concept of a national park at BN relies upon the legislative framework and the strategic plan of the government\(^8\) to create a sustainable balance between the environment and the economy.

The third chapter, *Situation and problems for opportunities of announcement of BN as a NP*, of this thesis are focused on study documents already available in Kosovo as well the legislative framework and the management of the protected area. Kosovo’s present and past governments have taken important steps to establish protected areas, but management of the protected area system must be strengthened before it can effectively protect biodiversity for example. Some additional areas should be protected. In the same chapter is presented tourism which can be used in different seasons.

The fourth chapter, *How to learn for a future park and to handle tourism*, study uses a European Union NP reference case, Fulufjället NP in Sweden and other examples that can serve as a roadmap for implementation of planning models and management for announcing a NP, or protection from the threats and damages among the population, the environment and the material assets.

![Fig. 4. Human carelessness, BN – the remains of a burned car left in the nature.](Source: ARD-BIOFOR IQC Consortium, 2003.)

For the purposes of this thesis, some of the NP in Sweden and in the EU are chosen as reference studies, and will serve as learning models. The reference studies serve also to reflect the practices of EU regulations in terms of agriculture, grazing, planning for protection or establishing a NP, a practice which is relatively absent within the scope of the circumstances surrounding the issue of a NP for BN. During the relatively short

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\(^8\) PISG in Kosovo/a UNMIK.
period since the Fullufjället NP was established as a NP, the issues that were confronted were related to conflicts of interests. According to the report for the Visitor surveys at Fulufjället, before and after the establishment, the competing interests have been noticed and elaborated in following:

*It can sometimes lead to a conflict of interest between what is best from a purely business standpoint (i.e. to take payment for experiences of nature) and what is best from the standpoint of society as a whole (to protect sensitive nature, provide citizens with outdoor recreation opportunities, etc.). It is therefore important for representatives of private and public interests to co-operate and act in partnership in order to achieve the sustainable development of infrastructure and tourism in and around protected natural areas.*

Fulufjället has been announced as a NP in the year 2002, and the model that was applied to the zoning of Fulufjället NP is the Recreation Opportunities Spectrum as a ROS model. The intention behind this model was to resolve the conflicts by separating them in space and time. This applies especially to the potential conflict between utilization and preservation. Hence my intention is to use the ROS model for BN, and to provide utilization and preservation of natural resources exploitation as: forestry and high density tourism where I wish to refer the same study report for monitoring of visitors survey of BN, by preparing a questionnaire. The ROS model is presented in my fourth chapter: “How to plan for a future park and to handle tourism”. In this same chapter, I will try to present another model which helps solving conflicts between visitors and environment, the LAC model which stands for “limits for acceptable change”.

The fifth and the last chapter, is reserved for the BN’s region and the future perspective for integration in the EU, by establishing large – scale trans-boundary protected areas, those of BN in Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro. Thus it seems to be a better and acceptable solution when all five municipalities that cover BN region can get such an initiative aimed at establishing such areas in cooperation between the countries. Furthermore, BN region attracts the EU regional development founds, Foreign Direct Investment, and other types of development, including own government and private sectors.

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I.5 Methodology

According to the Spatial Plan of Kosova, the NP of the BN is one of the main interest areas. Other documents that elaborate these issues are the resolutions’ and interviews of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) in Kosova. The bodies that elaborate BN as a NP subject at the local level are (EPD’s) the environmental protection departments in four municipalities, Pejë, Deçan, Istog and Gjakovë. Other organizational stakeholders in BN as NP are AGRIFOR Consult which is a Belgian consulting company, Forestry Agency and The Association of Hunters. The key goals of this enterprise are focused on providing sustainable development of the tourism and cultural heritage, through the application of model definition that would support the goals and help to establish BN as a NP.

Why were these informants chosen and why concretely them? Regarding this questions, the issue of the environmental protection has been gaining interest in Kosovo and its Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in the prospect of advancing the European integration agenda as well as the reinforcement of the rule of law in Kosovo.10

Further answering the first question, as a citizen of Peja city I heard much about the process of establishment of BN as a NP years ago, from the newspapers’ and different information’s debate. And when I decided to write the thesis for this issue I found out that currently the main problem lies on the value of natural biodiversity and co-existence of human activities and actions affecting the natural heritage. Further on I decided to learn more about the process of establishment of BN as a NP, why it stopped before. As a “guide” I prepared questions which further discover the problem with the intention to resolves some of them. One of the interviews is presented in appendix 4. These questions were:

1. Regarding the process of history of BN, why was it not established as a NP when the study was made after 1985?

2. Why was the process of establishment BN as a NP discontinue until 2003?

3. Which are the present Visions for establishment BN as a NP, when the draft law is in the parliament?

10 UNMIK Regulation No. 2003/01 on Environmental Protection.
4. What is the situation and problems for opportunities of announcement of BN as a NP?

5. How to plan for a future NP and to handle tourism in BN?

Limited availability of information sources called for the collection of primary and secondary information from all stakeholders in the concept of the BN as a NP. Project BN as NP stakeholders were selected to reflect vested interests, concerns, and knowledge for the concept of NP in BN. The sources of information represent governmental institutions, central and local, and non-governmental organizations. The selection was made to obtain a balanced view among stakeholders. The lack of continuity in governance caused by transition, the last war and institutional underdevelopment, have limited the progress of BN as a NP and therefore, the amount of appropriate information is scarce and limited. One of the limiting constraints was the lack of archived sources of information.

Throughout my thesis research and working process I have used a variety sources and literature. Theoretical context of the thesis represents a comparative study between BN and Fulufjället NP, and Natural England’s web site, adopting EU regulations, procedures and policies as an integral part of the process. I looked at BN study document’s and reports available in the MESP, and four municipalities.

Because a large amount of work and time has been invested in the process of establishing BN as an NP, and considerable archive and current subject documents available, secondary data will comprise most of the sources of information. Research papers, newspapers articles and article from journals completed my research. Theoretical aspect of thesis and EU implications also draw on secondary sources of information. Secondary and primary information was made available from MESP, four municipalities that overlap with the proposed area for BN, NGOs, communities and other actors related to this issue.

Primary research is comprised of structured interviews, following a questionnaire guide. In order to have more realistic political issue and better insight of the thesis subject I decided to interview the major bodies involved during the process for establishing BN as NP and those who were against and pro the announcement of BN as a NP. So I find it is necessary to present some of the interviews on this thesis.
Primary research information was gathered and processed to answer questions purporting the thesis research guide. The subject of NP at BN was elaborated in chronological order. In the second chapter of the thesis, the historical perspective is laid to serve as an overall information building on the subject. The reference study on comparison points also refers to secondary sources for Fulufjället NP and suggestions for future management and criteria’s in BN from National Parks planning management in England.

Finally, the problems that I was faced with during my research were primarily the lack of available documents in the planning system, as Kosovo is on the transition period and still working on institution’s building capacities, where most of the competences still rely on UNMIK.
II. The Process of History

Initiatives for the announcement of BN as a NP began in April 1970. A proposal was sent from Kosovo/a Organ for Protection of Cultural Monuments to the Assembly of Kosovo, which contained the first request proposal for a NP announcement. In 1985, for the second time, the procedure was repeated by the Kosovo/a Organ for Protection of Cultural Monuments, and a proposal was send again. In this initiative, it was proposed that BN as a NP would extend to territory of the municipalities of Peja and Deçan. The Deçan municipality agreed that only the territory of Peja which falls within BN, be announced as NP. (OTAM & Urban Planning Organ, 1972) On this issue, in 1985, a study was prepared entitled: “Study – for social reasoning of announcement for part of BN in Peja municipality as a NP”. According to this study, the borders for the territory of NP are decided between Peja municipality and representatives from the regional forestry authority. The study went no further in detailing problems which arose from the different interests that stakeholders held, primarily related to exploitation of natural resources within proposed territory of NP. The stakeholders were concerned that legal sanctioning of the territory as a NP would limit exploitation of resources within their territory.

Table1. Some indices of inhabitant structure in the year 1981 in 13 villages of Rugova region which constitute National Park of Cursed Mountains.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure elements</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In total inhabitants number in the place</td>
<td>2357</td>
<td>100,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-agriculture</td>
<td>1745</td>
<td>74,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-non-agricultural</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>26,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In total active inhabitants</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>22,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active in agriculture</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>18,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed or have shops</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>2,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-work on the dwelling-place</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-work out of the dwelling-place in Yu</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-temporary work in the foreign countries</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-don’t know</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: EKS Holorit processing of inhabitant registration of the year 1981, according to villages.
Table 2. Area and land use structure according to the property sector in territory proposed as a NP in BN (source by cadastral directorate municipality in Peja, for in Peja municipality, 1985).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sort of land use according to the property sector</th>
<th>Settlements in Rugova valley</th>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ha</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat fields and vegetable gardens</td>
<td>287,36</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>24,02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social (1)</td>
<td>3,68</td>
<td>1,3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual</td>
<td>283,68</td>
<td>98,7</td>
<td>24,02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove</td>
<td>0,60</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual</td>
<td>0,60</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddock</td>
<td>2833,02</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>397,84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>205,47</td>
<td>7,3</td>
<td>253,41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual</td>
<td>2627,55</td>
<td>92,7</td>
<td>141,43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrought</td>
<td>3120,97</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>418,87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>209,15</td>
<td>6,7</td>
<td>253,41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual</td>
<td>2911,82</td>
<td>93,3</td>
<td>156,46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastures</td>
<td>5414,37</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>2957,04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>4195,01</td>
<td>77,5</td>
<td>2938,21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual</td>
<td>1219,36</td>
<td>22,5</td>
<td>18,83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland</td>
<td>10324,48</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>9274,04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>9090,99</td>
<td>88,1</td>
<td>8855,55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual</td>
<td>1233,49</td>
<td>11,9</td>
<td>418,49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barren</td>
<td>453,72</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>529,48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>412,11</td>
<td>90,8</td>
<td>525,63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual</td>
<td>41,60</td>
<td>9,2</td>
<td>3,85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19312,54</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>13180,43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>13907,26</td>
<td>72,0</td>
<td>12572,80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual</td>
<td>5405,28</td>
<td>28,0</td>
<td>607,63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Social property - in former socialist system of YU.
Table 3. Land surface and structure according to the use age on the NP territory of BN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use manner</th>
<th>Villages on Rugova region</th>
<th>Other parts of villages</th>
<th>In Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ha</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field - Horticulture</td>
<td>287,36</td>
<td>1,5</td>
<td>24,02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove-Vineyard</td>
<td>0,60</td>
<td>0,0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddock</td>
<td>288,30,01</td>
<td>14,7</td>
<td>394,85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFIELD</td>
<td>3120,97</td>
<td>16,2</td>
<td>418,87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture</td>
<td>5414,37</td>
<td>28,0</td>
<td>2957,04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURAL</td>
<td>8535,34</td>
<td>44,2</td>
<td>3375,91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood and woodland</td>
<td>10323,48</td>
<td>53,5</td>
<td>9275,04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barren</td>
<td>453,72</td>
<td>2,4</td>
<td>529,48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Total:</td>
<td>19312,54</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>13180,43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Notes from the cadastral municipal office of Peja Municipality 1985.

Table 4. Land participation according to tilth on the villages of Rugova region and other parts of villages which are part of the NP in BN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use manner</th>
<th>Villages region on Rugova</th>
<th>Other parts of villages</th>
<th>In Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ha</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field - Horticulture</td>
<td>92,3</td>
<td>7,7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove-Vineyard</td>
<td>100,00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddock</td>
<td>87,8</td>
<td>12,2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFIELD</td>
<td>88,1</td>
<td>11,9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture</td>
<td>64,7</td>
<td>35,3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURAL</td>
<td>71,7</td>
<td>28,3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood and woodland</td>
<td>52,7</td>
<td>47,3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barren</td>
<td>46,2</td>
<td>53,8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Total:</td>
<td>59,4</td>
<td>50,6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Notes from the cadastral municipal office of Peja Municipality 1985.
Table 5. Inhabitants number during the year 1961, 1971, 1981, in 13 villages of Rugova region in the NP of BN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intercommunity</th>
<th>Number of inhabitants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Villages</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drelaj Intercommunity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Drelaj</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pepiq</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Koshutan</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Reka e Alages</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Malaj</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Big Shtupeq</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Small Shtupeq</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercommunity's in total</td>
<td>1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haxhaj Intercommunity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Kuqishte</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Haxhaj</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Jashanica</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Boge</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Shkrel</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Dugajev</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercommunity's in total</td>
<td>1365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Total</td>
<td>3270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Environmental management was largely ignored during the socialist period.” At that time the financial problem had been raised for further studies in law regulations and plan development in the territory of BN as an NP. Financial problems are also related with implementing the zoning on the places inside NP, different rating of the protection according to the zoning and the use of area or resources, which directly affect in economic relation in these zones or in all area of the NP predicted at that time. The law basis for the announcement in BN area as NP comes from an article of the Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 1974 and the Kosovo Social Provincial Autonomy’s (KSPA) law for nature protection (“Gazeta zyrtare KSARK” nr. 44/76 and change and fulfilment of the Law for nature protection “Gazeta zyrtare KSARK” nr 15/81). According to the basic principle of the Social Provincial Autonomy Kosovo/a constitution:

For protection and toward of the human environment, functional people and citizens, organisations ….. and “social society” to secure condition for protection and headway of natural value and other environmental value which are with interest of the healthy way of life, secure and creative for the current, next and future generations.

Fig.5 Map of the territory of BN proposed as NP in 1985.

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13 Constitutional principle. 1974, the former Social provincial autonomy of Kosovo/a.
Furthermore in the same “document” is presented on eleven chapter “organisation basic concept – spatial for NP of the BN” where a professionals group of authors explains those issue; Basic approach, Basic assumptions of the spatial-organisational concept, Zoning definition from functioning area point of view and Zoning definition from conservation point of view. Hereby we can see that a detailed analysis has been made in with regard to Zoning, which in that time has been planed just for municipality of Peja in BN region.

To accomplish duties coming from the Constitutional framework for Self-Government of temporary Institutions (PISG) of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo/a (UNMIK), Rule 2001/19, for execution branch of the PISG in Kosovo/a, Rule 2002/5 for changes and amendment of the Rule 2001/19, the law for nature protection and international convention for nature protection, whereas according to the Ministry for Environment and Spatial planning low office Kosovo Institute for Nature and Environment Protection again has take an initiative for announcement of BN as NP.

The Environmental Protection Law, passed on January 16, 2003 and signed into law on April 16, provides the legal framework for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation in Kosovo. The Law on Forests, passed on March 20, 2003, replaces the 1987 Forest Law that was written to support forestry within a socialist society and centralized economic system. “The new law, written with the assistance of FAO forest experts, is built on the principles of sustainability, biodiversity protection, and intergenerational equity and is intended for implementation within a democratic society with a free market economic system.”

This initiative has been agreed from Kosovo/a government, as well as by the assembly. A meeting was held on 03.04.2003 to inspect the proposal of government for resolution of initiatives for announcement of BN as NP and take the resolution for approval. Four municipalities, Municipal Assembly (MA) in Peja resolution (no: 352-5339/2002), MA Deçan (resolution on 01/63 on 93 September, 2002), MA Gjakova (resolution 01 no: 14 Provincial Organ for Nature Protection. (1985, Dec.).
372/2002) and MA Istog (resolution 01 no: 41/2002), were included in the territory that covers BN\textsuperscript{18}.

In 29.05.2002 in Pejë a Consultancy was held on the theme “BN until now and further strategy of protection and management.” For this consultation in Peja, two public debates have been organized, for the draft law for the NP in a BN, in Prishtina and Deçan where a noticeable number of representatives of local authorities and land holders where NP relies.

The permanent Secretary of Kosovo/a Government by Nb.441/203 decision of 5.8.2003 appointed a working group to compile and fulfilment of the draft law for the NP in BN\textsuperscript{19}. Kosovo Government has considered that after the coming elections, it should be drafted a law that would include the NP “Shar Mountains” and the new NP in “BN”. The compiled draft law is on the approval proceedings in the Assembly of Kosovo.

National park management is starting almost from scratch in Kosovo after the hiatus caused by the war and must be rebuilt on the basis of reliable conservation information and monitoring, rational borders and management zones, well trained staff, adequate management resources, law enforcement, community participation, and support from municipal government and civil society.\textsuperscript{20}

It is important to mention that, within the territory of the NP proposed in BN those are nature values already conserved in previous system in former YU periodically where total area is: 4.727, 347 ha, those are as following\textsuperscript{21}:

1. The Rugova Canyon- natural monument, 4.301.05 ha – Pejë (1985).


\textsuperscript{18} MESP law office.

\textsuperscript{19} MESP law office.


\textsuperscript{21} IKNEP, (2005).
6. The Maple Forest “Malet e Prilepit” -0.92 ha- Deçan (1963).


Fig. 6. Map of the territory of BN proposed by MESP.

Blue line – border of BN, red line – municipality border, red dots – strict zone.

(Source: study reasoning 2003, map covers area of Peja Municipality).

It is worth mentioning that the Special Representative of the United Nation Secretary-General in Kosovo (SRSG), Soren Jensen Petersen, with the Executive Decision no: 2005/5 on the particular areas, has proclaimed as protected the zone of Deçani’s Canyon with an area of 800 ha. Over 600 ha of this zone are included within the territory of the National Park in BN area. The SRSG has extended the protection to this zone.

The Deçani Monastery is protected as a cultural monument and is registered on the list of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO) since 2004. The protected zone of the Deçani Monastery area is 103.81.83 ha. Moreover Peja Patriarchate is protected cultural monument and starts nearby the Rugova Canyon. An initiative was also taken in the regional level and broader, for the proclamation of BN as a NP.

A working group from different professions has been gathered to prepare the Study of reasoning for announcement of BN as NP and found that the area proposed for NP in BN 62,488 completed the condition for announcement as NP.
II.1 Why did the process for announcement for NP stop? Pros and cons.

Starting from the first attempt during the eighties, in the territory of former Yugoslavia until 1985 there were already twenty NP in all six republics and in Socialist Autonomy of Vojvodina, and resources in Kosovo/a have optimal conditions to continue in this track. Under Yugoslavia, the former Socialist Republic of Croatia held five NP and the 5863 ha, followed by former Socialist Republic Montenegro with four – 78400ha, former Socialist Republic Macedonia - three 106.488ha, former Socialist Republic Serbia three 116.000ha, former Socialist Republic Bosnia and Herzegovina two – 20.625ha, former Socialist Republic Slovenia one – 80000 and former Socialist Autonomy Province of Vojvodina with one – 22.460ha.\(^\text{22}\) The fact that in Kosovo/a, at that time, no NP was announced, contrary to the extraordinarily valuable nature is that nature protection in Kosovo/a has not received much

\(^{22}\) Annual statistics of former YU for year 1985.
attention. This has happen also because the budget has always gone to the other Republics and Province Part of former YU, and in a way the province of Kosovo/a has always lagged behind. Most of the documents which has been prepared by Serbia could not been obtained from the by Serbia that was for example a Serbia-wide assessment of biodiversity published in 1999 included Kosovo and even the “USAID staff for their Assessment Team was unable to obtain.” Serbia has completed an inventory of its flora including Kosovo. Serbia’s faunal survey is incomplete but in process. If the political situation permits in the future, cooperation between Kosovo and Serbia’s biological scientists would be very useful in expediting the survey process.

After the last war in Kosovo/a the new administration started its function- the United Nations Mission In Kosovo (UNMIK) and Provisional Institutions of the Self-Government (PISG). Whereas initiatives have been taken for environmental protection of BN area, this raises many different ideas after the new effort for establishment of BN as a NP.

Zeqir Veselaj, the director of Regional Environmental Centre (REC) and former advisor for environment in MESP in Kosovo/a, explains that the problem relies on the municipality of Peja, because of their belief of losing competence with the law proposed from MESP.

In 2002, the law was reinitiated by a workshop which was held in Peja town. At this event all stakeholders, delegations from the Peja, Deçan, Gjakova, Istog municipalities, signed an agreement that the establishment of NP in BN once again should proceed. The MESP organized an experts group which studied the reasoning of BN. “This study has a forerun study made in 1985. After the study finished it ascertained estimable composition as a draft for a future law” Mr. Veselaj said.

Veselaj goes on to explain:

Thereafter a number of problems arose. These problems came from three directions: first, from Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD), because of the woodland, second from the municipalities even if they agreed on the announcement for BN as NP, they distrusted to this proposal law draft because of the fear of losing competence, especially the municipality of Peja, and third from the inhabitants of the BN area. This is due to the fact that the inhabitants were neither

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24 See Appendix 1 – Newspaper, fragment “Koha ditore”.
informed of the process nor were they informed of what a National Park in fact is.

As a consequence, the inhabitants were filled with fear of losing their property.

Veselaj further explains that: the MESP$^{25}$ preceded the law anyway and sent the draft to the parliament. In March 17, 2004, was the first time that the law was given to parliament, but did not pass the first reading. LDK was recommended by the head of the Peja municipality not to read and stand by the main problem of article 7 in Law for forestry, which states:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7.1.</strong> Border of national park “Malet e Sharrit “and national park “Bjeshkët e Nemuna” from article 5 to 6 of this law are marked in topographic map in proportion of 1:25 000 and this are annex and part of this Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7.2.</strong> The border signs of the national parks from article 5 and 6 of this Law must be done by the Ministry, MAFRD and Cadastral Agency of Kosovo within one year from the date of Law enforcement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After several meetings about the protection law, no decision has yet been reached. In April – May of 2005 the issue was again on the agenda but the LDK party was again in opposition. In 2005, after the new election, the parliament changed, LDK and AAK formed a coalition, and it was decided to pass a new law by starting from the beginning. That same year MESP tried one more time to put forward the law to the assembly but again it failed. Afterwards MESP created a new law for two national parks: for BN and the “Shar mountains”. $^{26}$

Thus, MAFRD and Cadastral Agency has to continue the rest, as well to continue with their cooperation with MESP. The working group in the beginning has discussed on the draft which is prepared by MESP. Then came remarks from MAFRD to harmonize this draft with Kosovo/a Forestry Law. “Experts from two Ministries have three meetings and finally proposed one acceptable draft for two ministries. And where is so far disunion about the elongate of BN territory because in MAFRD their opinion is not to announce all 62.488.ha and takes into the protection the most productive part of the forest and MESP is considering that this is a part of a natural and cultural value in heritage.”$^{27}$ The experts group send a proposal for a law to the parliament which has passed the first

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$^{25}$ PISG in Kosovo/a.

$^{26}$ The Shar mountain was established as a NP in 1986.

$^{27}$ Z. Veselaj, personal communication, (2007, Feb.).
reading but still remains to go through the commissions. The draft was handed out for public debate and by suggestion the zoning was added to the proposal.

*The Minister of MESP Ardian Gjini* claims that: “the reason why the law did not proceed in the parliament has to do with two plans, of which the first one was political. At that time “the current political coalition” did not exist, and political parties have different ideas about the BN as a NP”. BN territory cover a small part in Gjakova municipality, bigger parts in Deçan and Peja municipality, and a very small part is situated in Istog municipality. Four municipalities lead by LDK party, which where opposite to, at that time, Minister of MESP which leads AAK party.

The Minister goes on to explain:

*The second reason is that in Kosovo/a an informal use age of grazing exists.*

*Shepherds lead the cattle into the mountains (most of the time ewes), where the territory is named with the family which own the cattle, or named by villages.*

*Though these are not their property, they have always been used, for example Deçani Mountains, Beleg Mountains etc. And during the years everybody has respected each other’s territory.*

The minister explains that because people living in these areas have limited information/knowledge about what the announcement of a NP implies, they fear they will not be able to use the graze anymore for grazing their cattle. And for the first reason, which is a political issue, the BN habitants have been wrongly informed and their aim is stop the announcement of this territory as an NP. What happens? The Ministry reinitiates the process of law. Now due to the coalition formed in 2005 between LDK and AAK, there is a political understanding. But still today there is previous passive persuasion. Minister Gjini claims that during this mandatory period he visited some of the areas to explain the circumstances to the people, to talk with the people and tell them that they will not use those graze, and Minister Gjini believe that he achieved compatibility.

Actually the law draft proposal is in the parliament, and still remains for amendment. Resolution is still in the parliament process for amendment change or even denial of the law. Minister Gjini is very optimistic regarding the law this time. There are great issues regarding the borders of the NP. When they demarcate the boundaries of the NP a couple

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28 Ref: Coalition between LDK and AAK, political parties.
29 Minister in MESP Kosovo/a UNMIK, personal communication, (2007, Feb.).
of aspects are taken into consideration: the lakes, geographical boundary zoning, according to the isohypse, which is conductor to the mountain. This is the easiest way to define the boundary.

Peja Municipality leader, Ali Lajqi has declared that: “First of all Kosovo/a must define the main problem which is Kosovo/a status for independency and than consider BN as a NP in a more serious way. Then find an expert group specific for BN with the different professions required for the research of the spectrum and to be more specified definition of the property in the law draft of BN as NP”. The leader of Peja municipality says that the municipality does not need to announce some of the hundred hectares as a NP for political reasons. Also the cause of the borders definition which will cover the area of two bordering spots. Mr. Lajqi claims that, even the law draft is very centralist, where at this point the municipality was not asked, from the MESP, for covering more than 54% of the municipality area when they decided for the law draft. He claims that the municipality is the owner of the property.

In Peja municipality, Violeta Uka, high officer, declares that the community in BN region has not been informed by the MESP about the announcement for BN as a NP and the procedure for protected territory. In Peja municipality that covers BN, 60% of the properties are privately owned and 40% is national territory. The houses in the villages were destroyed during the last war in Kosovo/a, and the municipality has authorised the people in that region to rebuild their houses in the same places with the same urbanised conditions. However, Bogaj village has not been rebuilt according to the municipality urban plan. Instead hotels have been built without permission by the Peja Municipality.

The deputy of Deçan Municipality, Jashar Dobraj states that: “from the beginning the municipality support the initiative for announcement of BN as NP, but in public debate that has been organised from the MESP in Deçan Municipality, some of the people from the villages, which most of the people are from Isniq village, has been against the announcement because they speak that this is their property, that means some of the protected area from the proposal for announcement as NP”. Another issue for the process that has not been preceded which Mr. Jashar Dobraj has claimed is that the “proposed Law for announcement was deficient and MESP has not complete property

30 A. Lajqi, personal communication, (2007, Feb.).
31 J. Dobraj, personal communication,( 2007, Feb.).
issue in the Law”\textsuperscript{19}. And the municipality requests the MESP to work more on zoning and to be more specific for the protected areas. This matter has not been specified in the current draft law for announcement of BN as an NP, so MESP has to revise the current law draft where the zoning will be clarify in detail.

Mr. Ergin Hajredini, expert in forestry agency in Peja, states that: “the process of detain from my opinion, was the way of approach of proclaiming BN as a NP. The central-government always thinks that they are the government and decide for it. There is no adequate draft why should it announce as a NP. A NP from Kosovo population is seen as something forbidden, where no activity is allowed inside the park.”\textsuperscript{32} This area is very rich with forest and in the same time we encounter illegal activities. In this aspect, forestry agency and local population want still to use this Kosovo/a wealth. Whereupon Hajredini continues to say that park concepts are not developed as well. From the Environmental Ministry is compiled draft law for proclaiming BN the NP, but haven’t been agreed with the MAFRD, where the last one doesn’t accept area of 62 000 hectare, for the reason that Kosovo/a have its most valuable forests in this region, and will affect on the forests income in the Kosovo/a budget. Another problem is that inside the park there are many private land owners, whose income depends on the forests, but if the ministry tries to make BN as a NP Hajredini thinks that it will have problems on implementation and protection since there will be attacks coming from different interest groups, so one corporation and professional presentation will help in these aspect.

Hajredini continues to explain about the project funded by European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) called Sustainable Forest Management, wherein one of the components of this project is commercial management inside NP. After zoning of the area of park, there will be a valuation of environment influence, concrete on how this will influence forest use on the defined zones, and in which places it is allowed to be used inside the park.

Mr Hajredini suggested that this project will have one approach of community and other interconnected structures with the park. This will explain and harmonize the attitudes of two ministries – MESP and MAFRD, where the first one wants to have 62 000 ha of park in the BN, while the second wants to reduce it.

\textsuperscript{19} J. Dobraj, personal communication, (2007, Feb.).
\textsuperscript{32} E. Hajredinaj, personal communication, (2007, Feb.).
In an interview with Edmund Greimas, a site and species protection expert in AGRIFOR, Greimas declares that “people of the forestry have a fear for losing the pastures and that they could not cut the tree” and “they somehow act through the politicians” and his opinion is that this issue is stocked for some period.

It is unavoidable for Kosovo/a to have such a good area and not to have it in the protection. Also if we want to join the EU we need to fulfil the directive where 10-15% of the territory of Kosovo/a has to be protected area. Greimas has proposed solutions to resolve a problem: to add in the low more specific about the boundary’s which will define a green area and this will specify the three zones with the restrictions, and to become preliminary which is protected zone and which zone will be available for the inhabitants and the pastures so this way we will eliminate phobias of the designation for the protected area.

II.2 Present visions for the announcement of BN as a NP

The Rugova canyon, Drini i Bardhë water source, Radavc cave, crest rocks and Kopranik peak are distinguished as impressive geomorphologic occurrence with distinctly a esthetical qualities that raises curiosity. Appropriate conditions exist, not only climatic but also geophysical conditions (great compounds of valleys and forests, hydrographical health, panorama’s, etc), where we can build sanatoriums, recovery and recreation centres, and centres for sport trainings on high altitude.

For present visions everybody wishes is to announce BN as an NP or to protect this area from the current damages. Starting from the leaders in the institutions until the residents in BN itself, in a interview with anonymous of the resident in Rugova valley he says that there was a tree one thousand years old and his neighbour cut this tree for personal needs, not thinking of the damage of very important natural inherited tree of this area.

Minister in the MESP Ardian Gjini says that even if there was some barriers but he is very optimist now and the draft law hat to past to the parliament.

Officer’s Peja Municipality has made Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Urban Development Plan UDP) in favour by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in March 2007. In MDP and UDP of Peja municipal assembly claim that: “There are only
few mountains that have such great wealth and interesting fauna like the BN mountains. Organizing a NP in the BN region is a very important step in the organized use of the opportunities of this region”.

According to the Spatial Plan in Kosovo/a, which has already passed in parliament in September 2006, BN is taking place in the zones for the special interest “In the process of drafting the Plan and Strategy of Spatial Development of Kosovo/a, several regions or areas of Kosovo/a shall be specific by their content and function. Such areas must be treated as areas of special importance for the state, their level depending on their importance”. These area areas where key activities are related to “Special Interest areas” at the “Orange Area” named in Kosovo/a Spatial Plan which covers Municipalities within the Area: Peja, Istog and Klina,” and this area is included in territory of BN proposed by MESP, which are:

- The boundary points (Kulla, Çakorr),
- The National Park (Bjeshkët e Nemuna),
- Protection of cultural-historical heritage (the Peja Patriarchy, the Deçani Monastery, Albanian Towers)
- Protection of waters (Drini Bardhë, Lumëbardh), thermal water
- Other areas of special natural and cultural value, protected by Law (KISP, 2006).

However, according to the data in law office of MESP in Kosovo, Spatial Plan document has not specified about the territory, criteria or regulation of National Park. If one of the natural areas is conserved or proposed for conservation this are in Kosovo Spatial Plan designed as protected territory or proposed for conservation, whereas according to the spatial plan of the NP will bee specified this issue in a concrete way.

To continue with the vision of the forestry agency and MAFRD, with the similar opinion, shows that proposed area of 62 000 ha should be reduced. NP “Sharri Mountains”, as the only NP in Kosovo/a, with area 39 000 ha and BN with 62 000 ha, take 25% of forest area of Kosovo/a. This area contains the best forests in economical aspect as well, by

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using from for the production which Kosovo/a forestry agency doesn’t agree. And the second problem that those institutions are discussing is professional aspect of the people in charge, because most of the people who work in those institutions required rebuilding capacity building in a different and lawing harmonization with international standards and situation in Kosovo/a for the environment and forestry.

II.3 Conclusion

In this chapter is presented actual situation and problems comes by the political issue between two Ministries and two parties (LDK and AAK) as a first, and the second rely on the zoning definitions which is not done by now and Community in BN area which are unhappy because it is not specify their property regarding protection issue.

The study document for BN which includes four municipalities proposed by Institute for Nature and Environment Protection (KINEP) 2003 is as a forerun study of the year 1985 done by Provincial Organ for Nature Protection Dec.1985, but except area of Peja municipality are included area of Deçan, Istog and Gjakova, municipalities. According to the study document in 2003, as well the different opinions during this thesis research above, results presented requires further and detailed studies, especially for the zoning. So, zoning requires specifying precisely protected area, wherein by now are just in the border of those four municipalities covered by BN Mountains, proposed by KINEP. “The zoning system is an integrated approach to the classification of land and water areas in a national park.”

Areas need to be classified to protect the ecosystem and the BN cultural resources. The capability and suitability of these areas need to provide opportunities for visitors in a consideration for making decisions about zoning, as Canada parks for example. And regarding to the personal communication for this thesis, study document of the year 2003 for announcement of BN has to go on with a detailed studies and the actors need to be professional in a different fields of work.

However, Kosovo is 10,879 km² territories, and the purposed area by KINEP within MESP for establishment NP in BN includes the territory of 62.488.ha, which extends in the municipality territories of Gjakova with 2833.00ha; 28.33km², Deçan with - 22000.00 ha; 220.00 km², Peja with - 32590.00 ha; 325.9 km² and Istog with – 5065.00ha; 50.65 km².

So, according to the IUCN, Kosovo needs to reach those at least 10% of the protected areas and together with the Shar mountain NP, as a first NP in Kosovo, which covers 3.58% of the territory and together with areas already protected in former system of SAP Kosovo presented in the study document of the KINEP, would reach the EU regulations for nature protection.

As actually the law draft still pending without decision, even that Minister Gjini is very optimistic regarding the law draft passing this time to the parliament. However MAFRD has a different opinion by being against the announcement in all the territory of BN where the forest productivity put forward for their interest. At the moment inhabitants of BN in Peja and Deçan municipalities are acting thought politicians, as head of Peja Municipality Ali Lajqi, Mr Greimas says, by stopping the process of establishment BN as a NP. According to the study document 2003, inhabitants and the settlements in BN territory are divided in: permanent inhabitants and temporarily inhabitants. Those permanent settlements are for the people who live in this area and temporary which are using sports terrain and hotels. In post war period there has been many illegal hotels and housing constructions done, which has degraded this area, and this place need quickly decision of the parliament or other forms which can help to save this area from the environmental hazards. In the closing stage, lack definition of grazing regulations in the BN as a NP area requires more attention.
III. Situations and Problems for Opportunities of Announcement of BN as a NP

Opportunities for protection or the announcement of BN as a NP is one of the prospects for this region as well for all Kosovo. Mr. Haredinaj, expert from the forestry agency, suggested that: opportunities of BN’ are better by inserting of commercial management of the forests inside the NP, after the study of value of influence in environment in non-strict zone of park (habitats). As well study of the possibility which the park offers for ecotourism development, will benefit on the employment, and community economical income. Haredinaj argues that: “This will reduce strict protected park area, which will meet with forest agency requirement; as well MESP will have under the control commercial activities inside the park, and will apply forest management plans which will comply from the forest agency, and all commercial activities have to be aligned with the international standards”.36 Trying to define what the meaning of parks is, we can quote from Eagles which states:

> All parks are created by society for a purpose, which has varied across time and geography. Each park emerged within a particular societal ethos and organization. Over time, as the institution matured, different ideas of value came forward and some of these resulted in lasting landscape and management change.37

It is very important for those who look with today’s eyes and prejudices to understand the background of the landscape and cultures now observable. In his book, Eagles also presents one of the earliest definitions of the word ‘park’, found in the Oxford English Dictionary:

> An enclosed piece of ground, of considerable extent, usually within or adjoining a city or town, ornamentally laid out and devoted to public recreation; a ‘public park’, as the various ‘parks’ in and around London, and other cities and towns. Also, an enclosed piece of ground, of considerable extent, where animals are exhibited to the public (either as the primary function of that ‘park’ or as a secondary attraction). People visit parks with goals

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36 E. Hajredinaj, personal communication, (May, 2007).
in mind. These goals are highly personal, but in mass also represent societal goals. It is important that park planners and managers understand the intentions of visitors.

BN region proposed as a NP is in very beginning of the zoning demarcation and planning management, whereas from the central and local government, or other organizations handling conservation and planning management. Hence if we compare with the other European NP's or protected area according to the IUCN they has a similar issue but already defined by their regulation (or IUCN). As regards Natural England, according to the website, has very good specified almost all the issues in NP's in England where could BN can learn more form Natural England practice, especial for the grazing. The handbook offers practical advice on grassland management geared at site managers and conservation advisors.

In addition for thesis document I will present antecedent and deficient studies for BN region proposed as a NP, where interviews of the actors involved in this process for this paper has presented.

### III.1 Zoning

Zones with the protected status - according to the reasoning study of territory for the announcement BN as a NP (2003), until now some zones and natural objects in BN territory have protection status. These zones are protected by previous category of commensurate law of asset and natural goods (1988), as strict wildlife sanctuary, natural monuments and memorial parks.

Table5. Protected zones and objects until now on the territory of BN (Source: KINP, MESP, 2003).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone/ Object</th>
<th>Surface in hectare</th>
<th>Year under protection</th>
<th>Protection importance</th>
<th>Category by IUCN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top of Rops</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1955 Nr.277/55</td>
<td>Botanic importance with fir macedonian pine, pine, beech</td>
<td>Vegetative reserves I. a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kozhnjar</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>1955 Nr.337/58</td>
<td>Fauna importance, where wild goat lives (Rupicapra rupicapra L.)</td>
<td>Animals reserves I. a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prilep Mountains</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>1963 Nr.05-6/9/63</td>
<td>Botanic importance, pure mountain maple (Acer heidreichii)</td>
<td>Vegetative reserves I. a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the table above it is presented zone/object already protected during the former YU system.

According to the IUCN there are six categories of management for zoning conservation, and those are:

**Category I: Strict Nature Reserve / science reserve.** Are mainly, small zones-narrowly or none disquieted by people that are protected and managed for scientifically purposes and for the protection of the ecosystem.

**Category II: NP.** Mostly are large zones that are conservated and designed for preservation of the ecosystem, as well as for educational, recreational purposes.

**Category III: Natural Monument.** Zones of a small dimension that are managed for conservation of specific natural or historical features

**Category IV: Habitat and Species Management Area/ Managed Nature Reserve.** It is the Zone for protection of species and habitats through an appropriate management.

**Category V: Protected Landscape/Seascape.** Protected Zone, mostly managed for landscape conservation and recreation. This category includes area of lands, owned by public authority or a private person and diverse associated habitats along with manifestations of different activities as agricultural, arboricultural, piscatory etc. The purpose is the protection of landscapes’ quality and harmonious interaction of human activities as the biological diversity.

**Category VI: Managed Resource Protected Area.** Protected Area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystem.

From upward NP’s are taking part on the category II, as designed for preservation of the ecosystem in a larger area. As well in above table 5 it’s presented, category I by IUCN which is Strict Nature Reserve/science reserve and category III of the Natural
Monuments. Meanwhile there are two medieval orthodox churches in BN’s area the Patriarchy in Peja and the Monastery in Deçan. Since 2004 the Monastery of Deçan is listed on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and list of UNESCO.

### III.2 Management of the protected area

Law draft for establishing BN as a NP does not include any detailed description of the criteria for NP. Nazmi Shkodra as a high law officer in MESP, describes that this issue has to bee made by documents and act coming out from this law, like: spatial plan, long-term management plan, annual management plan, and rules within NP.

In the law draft for BN, long-term management plan has to be statutory planed by the Government. Government will supervise meanwhile implementation has to be made by directorate and its sectors. Therein still has to consider about the management of the NP which statutory describes on law for nature protection.

### III.3 Objectives for the establishing of BN as a NP

Further, objectives according to the KINEP, the territory of BN, as suggested for NP, is characterized by specific and high natural values and as such, deserves a special attention. Whence here he could find out about the deficiency of those criteria comparing to the other EU countries:

- **Sustainable utilization and protection of forest area; flora and fauna, as well as all the other value, by taking all necessary measures to sanify a labile ecosystem.**

- **Planned constructions and area adjustment for arrangement of habitats, tourist localities and urban weekend zones.**

- **Taking planned spatial measures and other measures for functional spatial differentiation of habitats that could impact the NP’s area.**

- **Rational use of natural values and of the area, as well as, the elimination of all harmful consequences.**
- Rational use, with destination to the agricultural areas, woodlands, forests, grass-plot and other natural wealth of the area.
- Enablement of intensive scientific, educational, cultural and other professional works in accordance to contemporary concepts on development of the NP.
- Development of a unique traffic system, with connection to Kosovo’s traffic system
- Arranging the area to respective municipal system and other infrastructure related to a functional use and the needs of localities.
- Materialization of general aims for economical and social development.
- Determination of the protective status of the entire area of the NP and arrangement of protection regimes within the NP
- Commensurability of the functional values and activities of the NP with the development concepts of the Municipalities and entire Kosovo.

By establishment of the Kosovo’s Environmental Action Plan (KEAP) in beginning of 2007, BN has been taken place as well in priority projects. Those are: Inventoring of Flora and Fauna in BN and Awareness rising regarding BN as a NP.

### III.4 The criteria for the establishing of BN as a NP

Continuing with the criteria used according to the “study document the reasoning study too designate BN as a NP”, are based on the Law for Nature Conservation; NP are part of areas of particular natural values, which should be protected, arranged and rationally used.

Following criteria for establishment of BN as a NP, of proposed protected territory is a large area of over 50 000 ha and is constituted of a comprehensive natural area and those are:

- In the proposed territory are great sources of protected natural zones such as: Gryka e Rugovës/Rugova’s Ravine, Aqueous of Drini i Bardhe/the White Drina and the Radavci Cave.

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The specific natural beauties and the values of this area take a considerable place in the comparative estimations of the landscape values and attractiveness of the natural regions.

The proposed territory fulfils the criterion of scientific, cultural and educational role.³⁰

“Study document”³⁰ has presented as well the natural conditions and the passable geographical conditions which give a marvelous opportunity for development of three forms of tourism: stationary tourism (winter/summer), transitory, and weekend tourism. By continuing the same study with the basic functions of the NP in BN which this document has set, are: Environmental Protection, Tourism, Cultural function, Scientific function, Cultivation and sustainable use of forest and pastures, Agricultural, Sustainable development of the settlements and population.

If we clue about NP designations in England, from “paper reviews the application of the statutory criteria for the designation of National Parks set out in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. It considers how the Agency can apply these to meet the needs and aspirations of society today.”³¹ Whither in we can suggest for BN as well those needs and aspirations of the society for BN’s area. According to the Natural England’s website: designation criteria are:

The statutory purposes and criteria for National Park designation are in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (hereinafter referred to as the 1949 Act) Section 5, as amended by the Environment Act 1995, Section 61 (1):

(1) The provisions of this Part of the Act shall have effect for the purpose -

(a) of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the areas specified in the next following subsection; and (b) of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public

(2) The said areas are those extensive tracts of country in England and Wales as to which it appears to the Commission that by reason of -

(a) their natural beauty, and (b) the opportunities they afford for open-air recreation, having regard both to their character and to their position in relation to centres of population, it is especially desirable that the necessary measures shall be taken for the purposes mentioned in the last foregoing subsection.

4. The statutory criteria for designating National Parks had their roots in the report of a government committee chaired by Addison (1931), and subsequent formal reports by Dower.

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More additional information about the NP’s designations criteria we could refer on the following website:

http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/archive/board_meetings/boardPapers/CA_AP00_03.asp

As well and the guidance on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) English Agriculture (No 2) Regulations 2006 we could find on following website:

III.5  Legal Basis

Legal basis for enouncing BN as a NP is based on the law for protecting of natural assets and assets created by human environment work (“GZK” 39/88). Based on this law NP is a “region with natural reserved assets, created and esthetical of cultural-educational, science, esthetical and tourist importance”. In a NP the only activities allowed are the ones which do not oppose flora or fauna, hydrographical, geomorphologic, geological, cultural assets and landscape assets of NP as well as activities based on the maintenance or natural balance. According to the Nazmi Shkodra as a high officer in MESP, economical and other activities on the territory of NP can happen only on reconciliation with plans and programs of NP.

Continuing in the internal report paper of the MESP Mr Shkodra explains that:

The way of protection, conciliation and utilization of a NP is made through a spatial plan of a NP which is issued by Kosova Parliament. In this plan, a defence regime and defence zones are defined. The legal base proclaiming BN as a NP is based on the Law for Protection of Natural Values and the Values, created by people (Gazeta Zyrtare “GZK” 38/88). Based on the

above mentioned law, the NP is “a region with created and esthetical protected natural values, that are cultural, educational, scientific touristic as well as of recreative importance.

The economical and other activities in the area of the NP can be done only in accordance to the NP’s plan and programme. The form of protection, control and the use of the NP is regulated by the “spatial plan” of the NP that Kosovo assembly issues. “The plan determines the protective regimen.”

III.6 Tourism

“Study document” has been describe tourism aspect in BN as one of the most interesting territories in Kosovo and wider. It has miscellaneous and protected woodland vegetation, with a variety of species of endemic flora and relicts of flora, which in science and tourist point of view is very important and attractive. These meet also morphological and hydrographical characteristics, and important tourist motives.

The above mentioned natural resources of the BN in a positive way determine their recreation and economical function, union and natural structures ecological balance, which can be taken as healthy base for qualitative and quantities expansion of the activities which are in tourist function and for maintenance and development of this natural environment. Only through tourism can these protected natural values be presented and propagated, and from it can be fulfilled necessary protection.

Nevertheless leisure those of recreation and access in BN area are missing, many places doesn’t have any proper road. To achieve this, Local and National Government in Kosovo need to work with farmers and public authorities to maintain and develop access and to assist them too successfully and functionally development of the future management of BN, whereas this could manage and benefit from increased public access of the natural environment.

Further tourism information according to the “study document” of the KINEP are elaborated relieves forms, vertical spread, suitable climate, long snow time and many other characteristic of the BN territory, handle incredible chance for developing of widespread

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43 KISP, MESP, (2006), Kosova our home.
tourism and recreation activities. NP area of BN consists of one valuable integral landscape that characterizes many widespread natural miscellaneous values.

The most attractive landscape and tourist altogether is made by woods, herbals, meadows, relieves ramification created by valley and neckband incision, rivers and streamlet, sharp mountains and many lakes that fulfil the landscape features and assures pleased evocation of these beautiful nature with high tourism values. High top Rocky Mountains above 2500 m have alpinism potentials. Wideness of meadows with hillocks and inclines and alps with high sources of water, offer the possibility of taking a walk and recreation. High tourism and research values have also many caverns like Radave Cavern, Karamakaz Cavern, princess’s small caverns, caverns through Gerla’s Koshutan, cavern near Ruta’s Source etc, which in the future might be research point for speleologists.

III.6.1 Summer tourism

Summarising the “Study document”46 for the Summer tourism all the landscapes described above have adaptable activities, for family leaves, workers leave, sick leaves, and residence on the open nature, alpinism, hunting, and fishing. Those activities can take place in many locations and mostly in Kuqishtë and Bogaj. Mountain climate during the summer season attracts the tourists. In general the mountain complex of the BN have a convenient mountain climate conditions with various emphasize vertical vegetation, different ecosystems, beautiful landscape, water abundance which represent for tourist healthy climate. Not only fresh air but also the presence of the diversity of the outside world can make to feel the visitor in harmony with himself and nature.

Fig.8.BN, (photo Fatos Lajqi).  Fig.9.BN, (photo Fatos Lajqi).

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When we talk about the alpinism like the branch of highlands, alpinism indicates and it is an opportunity of progressing in Massif Mountains, on the second region of the BN, like the Gjeravica Top-1656 m on the way to the three borders in Boriq-2330 m and on the top rocky mountain on the north of Albania like Iron top Shkelzen. Favourable conditions are also present in the territory of Sources of “White Drini”, in the Leqinat lakes and in some other territories which can be used for summer leave and medical treatment.

Except for the rivers like White Drini, Peja Bistrica, Decani Bistrica other smaller water sources like Vrela-Istog, Vrelle-Vrelle, Radavci Rill, White Water-Peja, Black Water-Peja, Vrela e Gubavcit-Peja, Vrelle e Lubeniqit-Lubeniq, Vrelle e Jasiqit-Jasiq, Vrelle of Big Meadows-Jasiq, Vrelle e Isposnicës (Bistrica e Deçanit), Vrelle e Belaje (Bistrica e Deçanit), Vrelle e Junikut-Junik, Vrelle (Haxhaj) etc, are sources of the clean and healthy water, very attractive and that allure tourists.

III.6.2 Winter tourism

Referring to the study document of KINEP, tourism is very important considering the adjusted spatial ground, nature and climate for development of many skiing discipline. Based on the record on the BN, there are approximately 31.500 m and can cope with 30,000 skiers. Leading ski lands are; Kopaonik, Rusolja Top, Leqenati Mountains and Mokna Mountains. Until now studies are done in Kopaonik where an intensive program named “Dukagjini sport recreation tourism center” is compiled. The ski longitude in this territory is 29.513 m. The preconditions for tourism development are also present in Bogaj, Kuqishtë Lumbardh Mountains, Mokna Mountains and some other lands.

Fig.10. BN, (photo: Fatos Lajqi).
Fig.11. BN, (photo: Fatos Lajqi).
III.6.3  **Weekend tourism**

Territory attraction and most of all of Rugova ravine, cultural historical memorials on the near and far surrounding, other nature values and rarities, have important influence on tourism weekend–travelling causes. Rich cultural–ethnographic legacy, dwelling and villages on the region of Rugova (handmade, Rugova folklore) are also an important reason for coming in this NP.

III.6.4  **Transit tourism**

“Study document”\(^\text{47}\) has been pointed out as well transit tourism, wherein position the Peja-Qakorr passing will create conditions for drifting tourism from the south to Adriatic territory. For transit tourists it is not necessary to build a particular object, except additional constraint that will fulfil the needs of these tourists.

This can be counted after the NP is established, which is overflowing and it will overflow in the future by school and universities excursions, educational work, science and research work, different manifestations and those traditional, recession on the nature, walking, training of the sportiest, massive visit of tourists agencies and different other motives.

III.6.5  **Hunting and fishing**

Inevitable is as well hunting and fishing in the “study document”\(^\text{48}\), where KINEP presents hunting economy as a very important factor for recreation tourism considering the fauna variety that lies on the zones of field, hill and mountain. Here live fulvous Bear (Ursus arctos), Wild Goat (Rupicapra rupicapra), Roe (Capreolus capreolus), Wild Cat (Felix silvestris), Deer (Cervus elaphus), Boar (Sus scrofa), Wild Chicken (Lyrurus tetris), Wolf (Canis lupus), Fox (Canis vulpes), Rabbit (Lepus europeus) etc. On the BN region which covers Deçani municipality like Kozhnjar, Roshkodol and on Prilepi mountain-hunting massif includes one area of 1671.55 ha. These has to be done on a smallest settings and on

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\(^{47}\) KINEP, MESP, (2003).

\(^{48}\) KINEP, MESP, (2003).
certain sessions as per hunting standards, because in those territories live rare species of animals.

Fishing is very important for recreation tourism that represents one important reason of visitors coming and mostly citizens passionate for fishing on the BN. On the rivers of BN there is Trout (Salmo truta), which is a typical fish of mountains watercourse of clean water.
IV. How to Plan For a Future Park and to Handle Tourism

IV.1 Tourism in protected natural areas

Considering environmental protection in the proposed territory for the NP in BN is an abundant region with considerable aesthetic values. This function subsumes the protection of the most significant ecosystems of the zone and the nature rarities. This does not mean the prohibition of use of the natural values. However, the use should be done in accordance to the concepts of a sustainable development of the area. As a base for determining zones with protective points are: Ecological values, Geomorphologic values, Hydro diversity values, Landscape and Locality values, Cultural and Construction values, as well as by the spatial and functional characteristics.

How can the development of tourism in the protected natural areas of BN be conducted?

First of all, Kosovo/a need to find the economic resources for development of this area by planning the infrastructure to create the better condition that could help for management of this area. Second is, to learn more about how to protect natural the inherited area. For example Sweden, according to Fredman, P., et al., (2006) were: “is a land rich in natural resources, and it has a long history of utilizing them for industrial purposes.” and to reflect in BN by protecting natural areas. In the same document it states that:

Among the main components of that tradition are national identity (characterized by the slogan, “Know your country”), the right of public access to the countryside, a steadily improving transportation network, and an increasing length of paid vacation. More recently, the Swedish government has noted the importance of nature and cultural heritage for the development of tourism.

And by learning from other international examples, for instance in Finland protected areas are tourists attraction. “The main purpose of protected areas is to protect natural features,

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they are also beneficially used for scientific research, amateur nature studies and outdoor recreation. The recreational use of protected areas can usually also be described as nature tourism.\textsuperscript{50}

There are a number of sources which point to a worldwide expansion of tourism and outdoor recreation in protected natural areas. Reliable data on the number of visitors are lacking for most such areas, but international statistics show that there are 52 million visitor-days in Canada’s protected natural areas, 287 visitors in areas supervised by the U.S. National Park Service, and over 70 million visits to the United Kingdom’s national parks every year.

In second chapter of this thesis document is presented that in Kosovo is a lively debate between MESP and MAFRD, because of that MAFRD doesn’t agree to have a preserved forestry area and to reach in total 10% of protected area in all Kosovo.

The report for Fulufjället state that Sweden’s surface is 449,964 km\(^2\) and to learn more about the Sweden, total area of protected natural areas has increased substantially in recent decades (Figure 12). Today, roughly eleven per cent of the country’s entire surface area is protected. Sweden participates in the Natura 2000 programme, which is a network of protected areas within the European Union. Other types of area protection in Sweden are represented by the Lake Torne Biosphere Reserve, the Stockholm National Urban Park, nature protection areas, the ecoparks of the Sveaskog Forest Company, and municipal green zones with local regulations on uses of natural resources that affect opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature tourism.

**Fig. 12.** Total area of protected nature in Sweden during 20\(^{th}\) century, distributed among three types of protection. *Source: Fredman, P., et al., (2006).*

In other countries for instance, “Finland’s Principles for Sustainable Nature Tourism”\(^{51}\) has divided in nine principles with intention to guide in protected areas and to apply them in practice. Those are:

- Natural values are preserved and all activities promote nature conservation.
- The environment is subjected to as little pressure as possible.
- Local traditions and cultures are respected.
- Visitors increase their understanding and appreciation of nature and cultures.
- Improved recreational facilities are provided for visitors.
- Visitors are encouraged to enjoy both mental and physical recreation.
- Local economies and employment are promoted.
- Publicity materials are produced responsibly and carefully.
- Activities are planned and organised co-operatively.

So, the goal of sustainable nature tourism is to provide visitors with valuable experiences in natural surroundings in fully sustainable ways, in social, cultural and economic aspects of sustainability.\(^{52}\)

### IV.2 What can we learn from Fulufjället NP?

#### IV.2.1 Planning for visitors

What can we learn from Fulufjället NP and to ensue to Bjeshket e Nemuna area, especially how to plan for the visitors in the BN this issue is presented in the “report for Fulufjället”\(^ {53}\) Wherein for this thesis is summarized and illustrated that protected areas that cover large territories usually have low population density, or very low population in general. Population in these remote protected areas exhibit strained economic and social

\(^{51}\) Metsähallitus, (2007).  
\(^{52}\) Metsähallitus, (2007).  
conditions, whereas, tourist population is consisted of populations of distant places, urban regions or international travellers altogether. Due to these differences, the process of establishing a protected area calls upon conceptual differences of how the landscape is to be used. Local populations may have a different concept how the natural resources should be used, in contrast to the tourists’ interests. If the gap in concepts is very wide between the touristic activities and the prevailing traditions, it is very likely to cause a conflict of interests. In case of a conflict, the opinions tend to polarize between the ones that favour the establishment of protected areas and develop tourism, and the ones that oppose the establishment of protected areas and do not regard tourism as a plausible cause or activity. Adverse situations and potential conflicts should be anticipated during the planning stage of the natural park, recognizing the inevitable resistance to changes among local population. This also calls for employment of change management concepts to overcome and facilitate the process.

Conservation of nature is another issue that requires attention at the planning phase, where due to the sensitivity of the subject, it commands great attention on behalf of planners. Conservation of nature is also a legal requirement at municipal legislative level, where the interregional aspect of NP’s requires that conservation plans are made at regional levels as well as national levels. One of the causes of differences is that planning conservation often involves changes of land use, as well as changes in priorities how the existing resources can be used, re-establishing balance between exploitation and sustainable exploitation – preservation. One of the considerations of nature conservation planning and preservation is how the resources are managed, establishing responsible and sustainable development at protected natural areas.

Natural conservation planning is organized in two tracks, the physical planning and operational planning (management planning). The physical planning addresses actual changes of land use, observing the requirements for immediate and short term as well as strategic and long term uses of land. The management plan deals with the subject of conservation and how it should be implemented and other subjects that arise from the operational and managerial aspect of NP. Managing a NP is challenge beyond the commonly observed management aspects of organizations; therefore the management plan lays a foundation for a rather complicated undertaking. Specific tasks that arise under the management plan, require custom tools and procedures.  

By the nature, physical and management plans are related, and have a mutual dependency, which is mostly evident at the so called, “flexible planning.”

In flexible planning, both plans have a distinctive set of roles, yet they need to maintain the strategic goals under changing external conditions, as well as reconsider goals under changing situational aspects. In Sweden, planning for Fulufjället NP has represented in many aspects, a development of planning process itself. There are two development aspects that are of significant interest, the zoning system based on ROS was applied systematically for the first time at Fulufjället, and tourism planning provided development of tourism and integration with surrounding areas and combine to develop new types of land use with new opportunities. From management perspective, zoning system is an important factor in the planning process which provides the basis to develop an appropriate management plan. Conducting research and studies on extend to what level do visitors receive what they expect from the visits to the park, is one of the methods to evaluate the zoning system and its efficiency.  

**IV.2.2 The Recreation Opportunities Spectrum the ROS model**

One of the most important issues in BN area is definition of inside zoning which raises misunderstanding between central and local level as well communities in BN area proposed as NP. Hereupon one of the models that have been used in Canadian NP’s and than Fulufjället stands by the Recreation Opportunities Spectrum which is ROS model.

The ROS is a planning framework, within an approach of providing a range of recreational opportunities where zoning is applied on the landscape. It has typically been applied at a regional level and supports a development of recreation experiences where areas are divided after the environmental conditions and the recreational activities.

This model has been applied as well to the zoning of Fulufjället NP. To summarise from the Fulufjället NP report, where this resource describes detailed issue for ROS model. In Fulufjället the zoning is also intended to resolve conflicts by separating conflicting activities in time and space. This applies especially to the potential conflicts between utilization and preservation, and those between outdoor recreation and some types of

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natural resource exploitation such as forestry, high-density tourism, etc. The ROS model will be one of the examples which have attainability to resolve the conflict for the zoning and planning management in BN as well, by using its theoretical balance of the factors presented on the Fig. 10.

The ROS model was developed in North America during the 1970s and is now widely used in the management of NP in “North America and elsewhere.

![Diagram of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum](image)

**Fig. 13 The relationship between the ROS – factors (Source: Ankre, R., 2007).**

The purpose of ROS is to facilitate solutions to a number of practical management problems. As well as fundamental aspects of the ROS model are those relating to physical/ecological, social and management issues Planning achievement for NP in BN zoning is a very high priority. This would accomplish also the requirement form the different institution, as we can see from the chapter II in this document. So, the nature conservation has higher priority than outdoor recreation as well for BN as a NP.

Applying a planning model like ROS requires some forms of direct and/or indirect methods for managing visitors as a complement to managing the protected area. In the management of outdoor recreation in North America, extensive efforts have been made to reduce both the impact on nature and conflicts between different types of recreation activities, while at the same time increasing the enjoyment of visitors through visitor management.⁵⁷

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IV.2.3 Limits of Acceptable Change LAC model

To resolve conflict of visitors and environment, the planning framework of Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) grew from efforts in the American NP\(^8\). The LAC model is based on the following premises:

- Variations in natural resource conditions are unavoidable.
- Outdoor recreation has effects which exceed those of natural variation, but which nevertheless can be more or less acceptable.
- Several different management strategies and measures are feasible; the choice of alternatives must be guided by the goals that have been specified.
- The limits of recreation carrying capacity are based on human values.

The purpose of LAC is to develop indicators that can be used to define the various ROS zones. It must be possible to measure and follow those indicators so that an area can be developed to acquire the desired characteristics. The basic idea is that some variation of the area’s characteristics is acceptable, but there are limits that cannot be exceeded without altering the area’s character so much that it is no longer possible to maintain the desired qualities.\(^9\)

Presentation\(^{10}\) of Wolfgang has been giving some examples of Canada for the LAC framework which could be another alternative for description and definition of zoning by 9 steps of the Indicators during the identification of the area in BN which are presented in fig.14.

![LAC from the Wolfgang Haider, 2004 presentation.](image)

\(^{58}\) Ankre, R., (2007).


\(^{60}\) Haider, W., (2004).
According to Mr. Haider, those are the **Indicators** from the measures of resource or social conditions:

- should be measured cost-effectively and accurately;
- Should reflect some relationship to the amount/type of use occurring;
- Should be related to user concerns (social indicators);
- Must be responsive to management control of examples, water quality, soil compaction, vegetation cover, number of encounters.

**Standards** as a level beyond which change is unacceptable and those are:

- Standards may vary between opportunity classes (ROS) or other zoning/regions
- May reflect existing conditions or future targets
- Monitoring and evaluation provide means for revision and improvement.

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Fig.15.Photo BN *(by: Fatos Lajqi)*

**IV.3 Monitoring visitors to natural areas**

Monitoring visitors to natural areas is needed for a number of reasons. An important indicator for this monitoring is the number of visitors. It is essential for planning and to the allocation of resources for management, conservation and infrastructure. But additional information is needed for the effective development of a natural area in benefit of the visitors.61

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There can be two ways to study visitors to natural areas, either directly or indirectly on site and outside the area through interviews with the population subgroups that are of interest.\(^62\)

One important difference between these ways of studying is that area studies include all categories of visitors (based on ethnicity, interests, etc.), while general population studies are limited to specific subgroups (of place or origin). Another difference is that those from whom data is gathered within the area have actively chosen to visit it, while included among those interviewed outside the area are individuals who do not visit it. Yet another important issue is whether the study considers visits that take place only at a single point in time, or follows the development of visiting patterns over time. The latter type of study is useful in a number of contexts, including the planning and follow-up of various management measures, monitoring environmental conditions and compiling visitor statistics.

Counting visits and interviewing visitors to a natural area is often more complicated than one might think. Among the complicating factors are variations in visitation patterns (time, location, activities, etc.), and differences between areas.\(^64\)

**IV.4 Fulufjället NP**

Summarizing the report for Fulufjället National Park, which as a National Park was established in August 2002 as and its most famous attraction is the Njupeskär waterfall which is the highest in Sweden. Njupeskär area is situated the main entrance of the Northeast boundary of the Park with the walking area. Fulufjället NP area contains 38,000 hectares and its plan management provides excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation and the area is relatively easy to move in.

*For Fulufjället NP Sweden has instituted the strict zoning system with the various zones and each zone has its own set of guidelines concerning: which activities are permitted, the physical environment; and the kinds of experience it is likely to provide visitors.*


The four zones are situated on a scale from wilderness to developed Unspoiled (Zone I), Low Activity (II), High Activity (III) and Developed (IV). They are distinguished by criteria relating to human influences, physical environment, probable visitor experiences, and appropriate activities. This corresponds to the international planning framework, ROS.66

It is very important to recommend for BN to follow these international ROS planning framework which could fulfil the criteria of human influence, visitor experience and appropriate activities by defining the zoning area.

**IV.5 Tourism, Protected Areas and Local Communities**

Tourism in BN area started to be hazardous for a long time, by constructing many new private hotels without building permit and cutting the trees in forestry. This issue is actually emphasized in BN area proposed for NP, where community in BN have their own way of use of grazing and the forestry. In regard to this issue Eagles has been specified, one of the fundamental reasons to consider tourism within the context of national parks and protected areas is the linkage with communities that are either adjacent to or within the park. In his book Eagles, stated that “tourism development has, as principal objectives, the creation and maintenance of economic opportunity, enhancement of quality of life and protection of a culture’s historic and natural heritage”67. Indeed, much of the ecotourism and sustainable tourism literature speaks directly to responsibilities and opportunities to not only protect national parks through appropriate tourism development but also address many of the economic and social challenges facing local, and mostly small, rural communities. In many cases, these communities struggle with a changing economic base, one moving away from resource commodity production. Other communities face widespread low incomes that they desire to raise. “For some communities that have traditionally relied on natural resources now gazetted within a national park or protected area, tourism represents an economic incentive to the community for protection of these areas”.68

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Communities and Tourism: Preparing for the Future

The literature is not unified in how to approach tourism development and address the types of negative impacts identified above. "Tourism development may represent structural shifts in a community’s economic base, leading to potential corresponding shifts in the distribution of both political and economic power. Such changes can result in conflict, suggesting that processes dealing with conflict should be considered as part of the tourism development strategy."⑥

Understand the relationship between the park and the community

Communities within or immediately adjacent to national parks and protected areas need to take steps to understand the dependency and scale of the linkage, in terms of economics, culture and policy, between the community and the park. While many of these linkages are economic in character, wherein there are also social and political dimensions to them. In particular, communities are often unaware of the management policies and issues confronting a specific park, and may even be unaware of how their tourism promotion strategies affect biophysical and social conditions within the park.

Often, the only relationship that communities have with adjacent parks is adversarial in nature; only the negative consequences to the community of park management policies are known or understood. Communities that have strong social, political and economic ties to a park are among its greatest advocates, providing both positive and negative feedback to the park administration as well as to higher-level civil authorities and legislative bodies.

V. BN’s Region and the Future Perspective for Integration in the EU

According to the technical definition of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 2001, Peace Parks are defined as: trans-boundary protected areas that are formally dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and to the promotion of peace and cooperation.\(^{70}\)

All current initiatives aiming at the extension of already existing protected areas and establishing new large-scale protected areas are indispensable for protecting the best preserved natural areas of the Balkans. The region still has the high potential for protecting even more natural areas of high biodiversity values than those designated until today. This is only possible if there is a fast intervention with an integrated approach and close cooperation among, especially, municipalities under which the proposed territories for the cross-border Balkan Peace Park are residual own task (under environmental and spatial planning) in the menu of LSG of these municipalities which derive from European Charter of Local Self Government or adopted to its guidelines and principles. In this case, “we are speaking of horizontal cooperation where municipalities work together, share tasks, and make alliances and joint actions within a country as well as with municipalities outside the border, especially where their territories and issues such as environmental and development coincide.”\(^{71}\) In these cases, municipalities enter into cross-border cooperation without need of approval from the central governments, or the need for respective governments to precede with such actions through foreign ministries, governors or presidents which is much complicated, long and bureaucratic process. However, a good political will and support is required and municipal cross-border cooperation can and shall be staring point (after civic society in the Balkan peace Park) and instrumental to influencing their regional and central authorities to not only for support, but to show this by necessary institutional adjustments and relations in the higher levels, e.g. respective ministries of environment, culture, tourism, economy, etc. come up with cross border regional cooperation and adopt such practices as part of their national

\(^{70}\) According to UNDP, MDG, (2005).
legislation, strategies and action plans in concerned areas. In regard to this, Shala states that:

“this is a very need, and at the local level, we have achieved that six municipal Mayors of the cross-border zone came up with so called ‘Letter of Good Intent’ for the first time in their history, recognizing the movement for a cross-border peace park in the area (which brought to such event at a regional conference held in Pristina in November 2006), recognizing the actors—which are youth and environmental NGOs of the area in cooperation with the related Committee in UK and others—and showed their good will and readiness to cooperate among themselves and with those involved, to provide institutional support and advocate for the cause to their respective central governments, and other institutions, such as international institutions and donor community present in their respective countries, and to do whatever it is in their competence as local self governing units empowered by the undergoing institutional reforms and decentralization process in the region.”

The share of areas under legal protection in the whole project area is currently close to 4.35 per cent, this index varies among countries from 0.6 per cent of the country area for Bosnia and Herzegovina to around 4 per cent in Kosovo, 7.14 per cent for Montenegro, 10 per cent in Albania. However, due to e.g. current budgetary constraints, designation of large new protected areas by one country alone does not seem to be feasible, while concerted efforts of e.g. two or more partners may result in successful and sustainable action for proper biodiversity protection and management of natural resources and solving environmental issues. This is why establishing large-scale trans-boundary protected areas seems to be better and acceptable solution from the state budget funding point of view as burden is shared with others and is subject to international and regional funding schemes such as structural development funds, etc. “The report describes several initiatives aimed at establishing such areas in cooperation between the countries of the region, like e.g. the case of the 'Balkans Peace Parks Project' in the Bjeshkët e Nemuna/Prokletije mountain region among Albania, Kosovo (UNMIK) and Montenegro.”

The initiative for establishing the Peace Park among Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo/a came from the civil society along the three-border area, starting in 2000, initially from Intelektualet e Rinje Shprese (IRSH) in cooperation with the Protection of Forest and

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Green Environment association (PFGE), both based in Shkodra, Albania; Environmental Protection Association “Aquila” based in Peje Kosovo/a, and Mountaineering and Ski association “Hajla” based in Rozaje Montenegro. At the same time, the initiative coexisted and it has been promoted and advocated by the Balkan Peace Park Project Committee—a registered charity in UK. Later on, the number of individuals and organizations interested and involved in the peace park movement has been gradually growing, as well as the level of cohesion and structuring the movement. In summer 2006, six environmental NGOs from Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo/a created the regional Balkan Peace Park Coalition, with the goal to coordinate activities, further develop the platform, aiming to involve other stakeholders and community transforming into a social movement. The Coalition, as form of self-organization, aims promotion, development and advocacy for establishment of the Peace Park, working closely with state authorities and other institutions such as international organizations and donors.

Great interest and research have shown a few students of the Department on Peace Studies of the Colgate University who has visited the area as interns with the mentioned organizations in the region, which has been promoting the movement and have written papers about it. Other writings have been done by the organizations themselves and the UK Committee in various national and international papers and magazines.

Fig. 16. Proposed area for Balkan Peace Park (web site: BPP).
Two more elaborated pieces about the area, its protection and sustainable eco
development are: The “Rugova a Cupsized Welth: Eco-guide” by Dritan Shala (Aquila)
Eco-guide”, by Petrit Imeraj (PFGE) Albania, and “Prokletije” in Montenegro. In
addition, a documentary film by Fatos Lajçi of Environmental Responsible Action group
is under development (see appendix A2).

Establishment of the National Park in Bëshkët e Nemuna in Kosovo/a, as well as the
cross-border Peace Park among Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo/a, as Mr. Shala sees it,
will potentially lead to the following:

- New local and regional unique identity and values vs. a troubled and poor area
  which has been experiencing nature and social destruction, which potentially will
  attract the EU regional development funds, Foreign Direct Investment, and other
  types of development, including own government and private funding;

- Increase of cultural and socio-economic cooperation and exchange in the region
  leading to sustainable development based preservation of diverse natural and
  cultural heritage, enabled by horizontal cooperation among municipalities and
  NGOs, as mentioned above; and

- Long lasting peace and stability in the western Balkans, which will be an added
  value to its regional integration into EU, and other aspirations of it inhabitants
  which have been suffering poverty, socio economical and political destruction and
  turmoil and war, more than ever looking forward to a prosperous common future
  in peace and harmony with each other and with their natural land.
Final Conclusion

In an attempt to summarize, several aspects of promoting BN as an NP are recapitulated. From the historical background of the region of BN, I would highlight the initiative taken to protect one of the most naturally inherited values in Balkans, pending due to financial constrains. Protection of cultural and natural values found in BN is in the interest of all Kosovar's, and so is the establishment of a BN as a NP. The flora with 255 endemic species and sub-species, with 28 per cent occurring in the high mountain areas (above 1,800 a.s.l), makes the region outstanding as the heart of the European endemism. Nineteen taxa have been included in the “Red List of Threatened Plants”.  

Proposed territory for a BN as a NP includes two major medieval sites of cultural heritage, Byzantine churches, the monastery of Decani (1327-1335), and the Patriarchate of Peja (13th century). Both monasteries have been proposed to be included in the World Cultural Heritage List - UNESCO. Conducted researches in the area of ornithology in BN have revealed more than two hundred species of birds which makes these mountains one of the most significant ornithological sections in the Balkans and Europe. The initiative that is in process, in relation with the government, is crucial for the future of this project, keeping in mind the initiatives to merge and extend the protected area of 62, 488 hectares and to designate BN as a NP.

Relevant actors, people in key positions at local governmental institution object the idea of a NP at territory proposed by the central government (MESP), 62,488 Ha. The issue at the heart of this conflict is that, the central government is trying to achieve EU standards by incorporating 10% of Kosovo/a territory as a NP. On the other-hand, local governmental institutions object because they lose territories under their administration, and as consequences, they lose some of the economic resources at their administrative region. One of the key obstacles at the moment is the identified conflict of interest between the government levels, at central vs. local level. Recognizing that both levels of government are constituted by the governing coalition parties LDK – AAK, one way to look for solution is to reconcile the subject at the levels of cooperation and with consensus. In proceeding with the establishment of a NP at BN, lessons to negotiate and resolve local-central conflicts of interest should be drawn from the case of Fulufjället, incorporating LAC and ROS models of conflict management. The purpose of this

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74 IUCN, (1997).
conclusion is to resolve conflict by using those models and to create zoning inside of BN which could be as a road map for management in the future of this new NP.

The future integration of Western Balkans into European Union, calls for strategic orientation and adaptation of processes to meet the requirements that spring from the integration process. BN as a geographic, natural, and cultural unit, belongs to the European continent, implying the EU perspective of the NP at BN.
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PARKU KOMBËTAR “Bjeshkët e Nemuna”

Përshkrimi i Parkut Kombëtar “Bjeshkët e Nemuna” përfshin sipërfaqen prej 277.200 ha dhe ndodhet në territorin e kufijve Komunave, anje të Pejës, të Dardës, të Gjakovës dhe të Burrencit. Si një nga sajtorët e paraqes së përgjithshme të Shqipërisë, është një ndërtese e ndërkombëtarës për mbretërinë dhe një natyrë. Është një vendesë e palashtur deri në pikën e kërkohur ndërteshëm të parkut, duke u bërë një element i shumë të paqyshur deri në pjesën e rëndësishme të parkut.

Mësimi i parkut kombëtar Bjeshkët e Nemuna është i nukës dhe i ndihmshëm për mbretërinë dhe një natyrë. Nëse do të pakashtëzohet shumë dhe ndihmon ndërteshëm të parkut, duke ndihmuar në shfrytëzimin dhe ndihmësin e ndërkombëtarës.

Përshkrimi i parkut kombëtar Bjeshkët e Nemuna është i nukës dhe i ndihmshëm për mbretërinë dhe një natyrë. Nëse do të pakashtëzohet shumë dhe ndihmon ndërteshëm të parkut, duke ndihmuar në shfrytëzimin dhe ndihmësin e ndërkombëtarës.

Përshkrimi i zhvillimit të parkut kombëtar “Bjeshkët e Nemuna” është i nukës dhe i ndihmshëm për mbretërinë dhe një natyrë. Nëse do të pakashtëzohet shumë dhe ndihmon ndërteshëm të parkut, duke ndihmuar në shfrytëzimin dhe ndihmësin e ndërkombëtarës.

Gjithët e Këngës

1. Me këtë ligj mungojmë këto mbretëri, njëgrumë, i ndihmësh dhe i ndihmshëm për shfrytëzimin e i anëtarëzimit të njëshëm në Bjeshkët e Nemuna.

Kuptonie dhe Sipërfaqja

Sipërfaqja e Parkut kombëtar “Bjeshkët e Nemuna” është i njëshumë dhe i ndihmshëm për shfrytëzimin e i anëtarëzimit të njëshëm në Bjeshkët e Nemuna.

Kombëtarët dhe Sipërfaqja

Përshkrimi i sajtorëve të parkut kombëtar “Bjeshkët e Nemuna” është i nukës dhe i ndihmshëm për mbretërinë dhe një natyrë. Nëse do të pakashtëzohet shumë dhe ndihmon ndërteshëm të parkut, duke ndihmuar në shfrytëzimin dhe ndihmësin e ndërkombëtarës.
Kush humb e Kush Fiten na parku kombətar

Ne me ligi po shpallim një park kombətar për gjytenet, njerzet e jo vetëm për florën e faunën; po shpallim park kombətar për zhvillimin e kemi dhe për stagnim; për progres të banorëve vendes e jo për tëreg urë; për popullin të zonës e jo për sëmundje.

Stacionari Me Zeyov Veçësi

Jani i ndahur ndir 30 vet e mërgit me shpalljen e Bjeshkëve së Bangladezës, ndonjë kombator. Ju ju ngreqi jo i dëgjueshëm se u dëgjet nga vetë marrue njerëzor kufiri nga Àrkaita, Kosovë, Arraya dhe ziqeti. E njohur që Bjeshkëve së Bangladezës janë park kombətar, janë kërkesët politikes, mëndafshorët komunës në mënyrën e përmbushjes që të ngjisi në privatizimin e tyre.

Pozicioni i kombinave

Kombinatet ishin i njohur ka rea për të mbyllim për fundin e re. Na jetohej për enët e tjerë të kombinave dhe me relativizimin e prarimës së tentimtarës. Po ndihmoj më shumë të ndihmoj të shpall ne vitet e parë të sëmundjes, por ju ngjiri ne vitet e parë të sëmundjes.

Jani i ndahur ndir 30 vet e mërgit me shpalljen e Bjeshkëve së Bangladezës, ndonjë kombator. Ju ju ngreqi jo i dëgjueshëm se u dëgjet nga vetë marrue njerëzor kufiri nga Àrkaita, Kosovë, Arraya dhe ziqeti. E njohur që Bjeshkëve së Bangladezës janë park kombətar, janë kërkesët politikes, mëndafshorët komunës në mënyrën e përmbushjes që të ngjisi në privatizimin e tyre.

Po ndihmoj më shumë të ndihmoj të shpall ne vitet e parë të sëmundjes, por ju ngjiri ne vitet e parë të sëmundjes.

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Po ndihmoj më shumë të ndihmoj të shpall ne vitet e parë të sëmundjes, por ju ngjiri ne vitet e parë të sëmundjes.
**Dej, na Prshëndtë**

**Presidenti Rugova fолi pa nje grupi studentesh e veprore**

Kosova e pavaruar, i integruar ne UE dhe ne NATO, dhe ne mjašët te perëndishe me SHBA-n, ezhisht zgjdhja pa Kosovën, pa ta kërkuar Rugova

Presidenti i Kosovës, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, foli te enjfen pa nje grupi studentesh e veprore me përmendje edhën e pendarisë se Kosova do ta përkohet. Presidenti i Kosovës, i kërkohur pa nje grupi studentesh e veprore, projektin e kërkohur pa nje grupi studentesh e veprore, jashtë për një ndonjë trousi të vërteta, përkohet me gjuhë dhe kulture që të jenë anëtarë të një vetëme në qytetinë e Kosovës.

Duse folor pa studente, ne në taktin e këto mbështetehet e ndihmërëve ne ajo lëvizje që te ndihmohej te unifikimit me SHBA-n. Presidenti i Kosovës, ne te ndihmohej te unifikimit me SHBA-n, ezhisht zgjdhja pa Kosovën, pa ta kërkuar Rugova.

**Debat publik për projektimin për parkun kombëtar “Beshkjet e Nemuna”**

**Priona private e banorëve të Beshkëve të Nemuna do të jetë e paçemashme**

Kryeministri Rapheli kërkon nga banorët e Beshkëve të Nemuna të ndihmojnë në kërcënuar që të qëndrojnë pa një pjesë e parkun kombëtar “Beshkjet e Nemuna”. Me një fillim të pikëtë, shërbyet me përkohje të vërteta që të mbahen në pjesë të private të ndihmërëve ne ajo lëvizje që të ndihmohej te unifikimit me SHBA-n. Presidenti i Kosovës, i kërkohur pa nje grupi studentesh e veprore, projektin e kërkohur pa nje grupi studentesh e veprore, jashtë për një ndonjë trousi të vërteta, përkohet me gjuhë dhe kulture që të jenë anëtarë të një vetëme në qytetinë e Kosovës.

Duse folor pa studente, ne në taktin e këto mbështetehet e ndihmërëve ne ajo lëvizje që te ndihmohej te unifikimit me SHBA-n. Presidenti i Kosovës, ne te ndihmohej te unifikimit me SHBA-n, ezhisht zgjdhja pa Kosovën, pa ta kërkuar Rugova.
APPENDIX A-2
MEMORANDUM MIREKUPTIMI

Ky ëshët Memorandum Mirekuptimi (MM) e ÒQË-ve njohore, të isakundruara në tjetrinë per parkun ndërkufitar të pjesës në zonën e zemrës së mes Kuvètes, Malit të Zi dhe Shqipërisë, për themeliminë e strukturës së regionalës njohur si Koalicioni i Parkut të Pjegë në Ballkan.

Ky MM ëshet rezultat i bashkëvendosmit, isakundruar dhe veçandimarrisë së Environmentaly Responsible Action (ERA) dhe Shqipërisë e Ambitit të "AQÜILA" në Pejë, Kosovë; Shqipërisë e Ambitit të "HAJLA" në Pejë dhe "TRITON" në Fierz, Malizë; së ndërkufitar që për Mirekuptimin e Parkut të Pjegë dhe Gjelëndrit në Shkodër dhe Qendra Mjedore "Valbona" në Tropojë, Shqipëria.

Koalicioni i Parkut të Pjesës në Ballkan ëshet një ngjarje për përshkrim të përbashkettit të isakundruar, i shprehjeve të tarteveve të marrëveshjes të veçandimit të gjejmëvërsjeve, bukura, intervente dhe mësuesit të tregitës e individuale dhe të përbashkët në kushtet të treguara për parkun e pjesës në Ballkan. Ky Koalicion, i isakundruar si njohuar e përbashkët, është themeluar në takimin regional të "Përmbishëm e Ambitit të "AQÜILA" në Pejë, Malit të Zi dhe Shqipërisë" në kushtet të treguara për parkun e pjesës në Ballkan, mal të jetuar në Prishtinë, Kosovë, 12-13 Shkurt 2006.

Koalicioni i Parkut të Pjesës në Ballkan ëshet një angazhimi për promovimin, zvonec dhe të tregjtë për themeliminë dhe njohjen e Parkut të Ndërkufitar të Pjesës si ëmri i parkut dhe drejtuesit mjetorës në malit të mes Kuvètes, Malit të Zi dhe Shqipërisë.

Koalicioni i Parkut të Pjesës në Ballkan është identifikuar me logon e shpërthen secili. Mësi është valid sëve në regjistrimin e tërëve, statistikëve dhe biografikut e sektorit nga Shqiptarët e themeluarësh.

Në marrëveshje, ishëshet ndihmëshëm këtë memorandum dhe marrin përqëndrimet e promovimit, e zhvillimit dhe ndërkufitarës së aktiviteteve e isakundruar nga parkun në kushtet të Ballkanit dhe të Kuvètes.

Nisim nga Kuvètë, Pejë, Kosovë
Dritë 16, Shtator 2006.

Fotos Luçi
ERA
Kosovë

Hysen Nikçi
AQÜILA
Kosovë

Semir Kardović
HAJLA
Cërca Gora

Memur Markulë
TRITON
Cërca Gora

Petar Imeriu
PFGE
Sheqipëri

Sokol Bishajgjakë
VALBONA
Sheqipëri

Q.M.P.

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MEMORANDUM RAZUJMJEVANJA

Ovo je Memorandum Razumjevanja (MR) ambijentalnih NVO, uključenih u pokret za međugrađenje pokreta mira na teritoriji imenovana Kosova, Crna Gora i Albanija, za osnivanje regionalne strukture pozvana kao Koalicija za Park Miru na Balkanu. Ovaj MR je rezultat saradnje, uključenja i odlučenja: i Environmentaly Responsible Action (ERA) i Društva za životinjsku pauzu "AQÜILA", Pejë, Kosovë; Plasemarsko i školsko društvo "HAJLA" u Pejë i "TRITON" u Fier, Malizë; slika i Shqipërija për Mirekuptimin e Pjegë dhe Gjelëndrit u Shkodër i Qendrë Mjedore "Valbona" u Tropojë, Albania.

Koalicija za Park Miru na Balkanu je osnovana za zajedničko međugrađenje okupljanje ambijentalnih državnih i regionalnih pokreta mira na Balkanu. Ova Koalicija identifikovana je kao zajednička potreba i osnovanja na regionalnom platformi "Udruženje i osnivanje NVO teritorijalne koalicije Kosova, Crna Gora i Albanije u okviru pokreta za park mira na Balkanu", koji se održao u Prizrenu, Kosovë, 12-13 August 2006.

Koalicija je odlučila da promoviše, propagiše i priznaje međugrađenje Parka Miru kao simbolu mira i ambijentalne poteze na teritorijama imenovana Kosova, Crna Gora i Albanije.

Koalicija za Park Miru na Balkanu se identifikuje ambijentalnim logom, MR je validan samo sa upisom legalnog statusa ovih ambijentalnih članova i poteza.

U sporazum, članovi potpisuju ovo Memorandum i priznaju oduzemu da promova, podrzavaju i oživjuju aktivnosti od strane uključenih u ovu zajedničku koaliciju.

Potpisano u Pejë, Kosovë
Dana 16 September 2006

Fotos Luçi
ERA
Kosovë

Hysen Nikçi
AQÜILA
Kosovë

Semir Kardović
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Sheqipëri

Sokol Bishajgjakë
VALBONA
Sheqipëri

Q.M.P.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among environmental NGOs of the three countries border area of Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania, involved on the movement for the cross-border peace park in Balkan, for establishment of a regional network recognized as Balkan Peace Park Coalition.

This MoU is a result of a half-decade action and involvement and commitment of the Environmental Protection Association "AQÜILA" and the Environmental Responsible Action Group (ERA) based in Pejë, Kosovë; Mountainecing and Ski Association "HAJLA" based in Prizren, "TRITON" Plava, Montenegro; and Preservation of Forest and Green Environment (PFGE) and Environmental Center "Valbona" based in Shkodër and Tropojë, Albania.

The Balkan Peace Park Coalition is a local cross-border community based network of joint actions of the above mentioned NGOs committed to respective participation, contribution, and support of any individual and joint initiatives in frame of the movement for the Peace Park in Balkan. The Coalition; identified as a common need, is established at the regional meeting Networkying and Empowerment of Cross-border NGOs of Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania in the framework of the Balkan Peace Park Movement, held in Prizren, Kosovë, 18-22 August 2006.

The Coalition is committed to promote, develop and advocate for establishment and recognition of the cross-border Peace Park as a symbol of peace and environmental justice in the mountains among Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania.

The Balkan Peace Park Coalition is identified by the above logo, and is valid only with the attached registration letter, bylaws, and a biography of each of the above-mentioned member organizations.

The members of the Coalition agree and take responsibilities to promote, support and facilitate undertaken activities of the involved parties in this joint Coalition undersigned below.

Signed in Pejë, Kosovë
On September 16, 2006.
BALKANS PEACE PARK
Richard Hargreaves has visited the harsh and magnificent Balkan lands of Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro. Is a cross-border peace park one way forward in this troubled region?

WAT would John Muir have thought? According to the IUCN, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, based in Geneva, there are over 600 areas of environmentally protected landscape which straddle national borders, some of which are specifically declared to be ‘peace parks’, symbols of peace and cooperation between countries and possibly warring communities. John Muir may well have heard of the world’s first such peace park, established in 1905 at Morokulia on the borders of Sweden and Norway when the question of Norwegian independence nearly led to war between them.

Three years ago I found myself caught up in the dream to create such a cross-border, trans-national environmental peace park in the adjacent mountain areas of Kosovo/a*, Montenegro and northern Albania. There is as yet no defined area for the proposed park, there are no maps, but there are already three national parks, one in each of the three countries: the Rugova valley in Kosovo/a, the Prokletije National Park in Montenegro and the Theth National Forest Park in northern Albania. At the moment they are parks in name only, with little or no statutory control over developments, deforestation or the indiscriminate hunting of wild life. But there are people living in them who care for them and who would welcome their incorporation into a bigger, trans-national protected area.

In May 2002 I travelled to the Theth valley in Albania, spending four days there, staying in farmhouses, teaching English in the impoverished school for a day and gazing in wonder at the stunning mountain scenery. The very steep sides of the valley are covered in dense beech scrub before that gives way to more scattered pine trees on the bare limestone crags. The jagged peaks of Jezercë 2692m, Radohimes 2500m and M. Alijisë 2471m soar high above the valley and the lowest peak on the headwall, Arapit 2217m, is the most impressive of them all, with a 900m clean rock face dominating the view. One day’s walk up to the col at the head of the valley, the Qafa e Pejës at about 1800m, showed me that the peaks were the province of the climber but that trekking on the old routes to other valleys and into or from Montenegro would be very rewarding.

*In this linguistically sensitive area it is customary now to write the Serbian Kosovo and the Albanian Kosova together as Kosovøa. Similarly with Peja/Pejë,
The high level walk from Vermosh to Theth, a classic mountain day which took us 13 hours, was a walk back in time: haymaking by scythe, horse and sled, lush high alpine summer pastures.

This led to the organization of an 11 day trek, in July 2003 for 36 people from 8 different countries from Peć/Peja in Kosovo, through Montenegro, to Vermosh, a valley and village in the north eastern corner of Albania, and then on to Theth. There was transport for the 65km from Theth to the city of Shkodër, where 80 people attended a full day international conference on the proposed Balkans Peace Park. The purpose of the trek was to engage as many local people as possible in the enterprise, as guides, interpreters, hosts or accompanying general helpers, and to demonstrate what this kind of eco-tourism could bring to the communities en route and what facilities would be needed for such activity in the future. We had to use transport to cross frontiers this time, but in future it should be possible to walk the whole way. The distance isn’t great, about 75 km as the crow flies, but the mountain scenery is.

In the Rugova valley, where all 13 Albanian speaking villages were destroyed by the Serbs in the Kosovan war and some are being rebuilt, the valley sides are a patchwork of forest and cleared alpine pasture, and a riot of summer flowers, with good fell-walking peaks rising to 2500m. In Prokletije in Montenegro the mountains are more dramatic, limestone fangs rearing above ice-sculpted valleys; in Albania the high level walk from Vermosh to Theth, a classic mountain day which took us 13 hours, was a walk back in time: haymaking by scythe, horse and sled, lush high alpine summer pastures, then sheep and goats grazing in the waterless wilderness below. Fierce looking limestone peaks. In the farmhouses, where they really want visitors, the food is all home produced: bread baked every day, milk, yoghurt, cheese and ‘kaimak’, jam, tomatoes, potatoes, cucumber, meat from one of their own animals and, of course, home brewed ‘raki’ in abundance.

History has not been kind to the Balkans and tension between Albanian speakers and Serbs is still high. The dream of a ‘peace park’ may be distant but it is compelling; a spectacular wild mountain landscape where three countries meet, where people and wildlife can move freely across the national boundaries, where the people and governments of the three countries cooperate fully to protect the whole environment, where the inhabitants of the valleys can continue to live off their land in harmony with the environment and where visitors and travellers can make their ecologically sustainable contribution. Wouldn’t John Muir be delighted?

For further information on the Balkans Peace Park: contact Richard Hargreaves at Strand House, Hawskwick, Skipsea, North Yorks BD23 5QA, 01756 770346, strandh@oap.com or balkans@oap.com. Richard also offers an illustrated talk on the area.
**Interview** - Ergin Hajredinaj, personal communication, 2007, May, 11)

**Procesi i historise gjate viteve pse nuk eshte shpallur si park nacional, pas studimit te vitit 1985)**

Sa i perket se pse nuk eshte shpallur si PN ne vitet 85, ndoshta koleget me te vjetër qe kane qene te kyqur ne pylltari mund te japin nje perqigjeje me adekuate. Po nga pikpamja ime mendoj se arsyeja e vetme ka qene aspekti ekonomik. Ne e dime se ky regjon eshte shum i pasur me pyje kualitative.

**(Pse stagnoj procesi i shpalljes se bjeshkeve te nemuna si park nacional ne 2003)**

Stagnimi i procesit gjithmonë sipas mendimit tim, ka qene menyra e qasjes se shpalljes si park nacional. Niveli qendror gjithmonë mendon ne ate se ata jane shteti dhe vendosin per kete. Nuk eshte bere nje prezantim i duhur i arsyeve pse te shpallet park nacional. Parku nacional nga popullata e kosoves shifet si diqka e ndaluar, ku nuk do te jene te lejuara asnjë aktivitet brenda parkut. Kjo zone eshte shum e pasur me pyje dhe ndonjërit dhe shum e atakuar nga aktivitetet ilegale. Ne kete aspekt, si agjencioni pyjor po ashtu dhe popullata lokale duan te shpallet si shqiptarja akoma kete pasuri te kosoves. Sipas Mendimit të këtij procesit, ka qene që jo të shpallet në këtë regjion si park nacional në 2003. Nuk eshte të disponueshëm për të ndurte ky proces në parkun.

**Projekti i financuar nga agjencia europiane per rikonstruktim-Menagjimi i qendrueshem i pyjeve, ne te cilin projekt dhe un jam i punesuar, nje nga komponentet e ketij projekti eshte menagjimi komercial brenda parqve nacionale. Ku pas zonimit te siperfaqes se parkut, do te behet nje ndikim i caktuar në këtë regjion, kur ky regjion eshte me aktivitetet ilegale dhe mbrojtje pasi ndeshen me intereset e paleve të parkut, do të ndikoj himen ose mbrojtje dhe që të ndihmoj këtë regjion si park Nacional. Kjo mendoj se do të ndihmoj dhe harmonizoj të dy ministrave si Ambient dhe Buqësia, ku nuk do të ndikoj këtë regjion në 62 000 ha.**

**Cfar eshte Visioni per BN si park nacional kurr tash me draft ligji eshte ne assembly**

Qeshtja ka ngelur tek diskutimi i siperfaqes, ku e kam ceke me siper. Ministria e buqësise, konkretisht agjencioni pyjor i kosoves mendon se siperfaqja e propozuar prej 62 000 ha.
duhet te reduktohet. Parku nacional "Malet e sharrit" me siperfaqe prej 39,000 ha dhe BN me siperfaqe 62,000 ha, marrin afer 25% te siperfaqes pyjore te Kosoves, po ashtu dhe pyjet me te mira ne aspektin ekonomik, per te cilen agjencioni i kosoves nuk dakordohet. Nje problem tjeter eshte dhe aspekti profesional dhe harmonizimi i ligjit me standardet nderkomtare dhe situatën ne Kosove.

**Situata dhe problemet per mundesine e shpalljes se BN si PN**

Me siper kam permenduar pak a shum problemet. Kurse sa i perket mundesise shof si shum te rendesishme, futjen e menagimit komercial te pyjeve brenda parqeve nacionale, pas studimit te Vleresimit te ndikimit ne mjaft ne zonat jo strikte te parkut (habitatet). Po ashtu studimi i mundesive qe ofron parku per zhvillimin e ekoturizmit, qe do ndikoj ne zbutjen e papunesise, dhe te hyrat ekonomike te komunitetit. Kjo do reduktoj siperfaqen strikte te mbrojtur te parkut, ku do plotesoj kerkesen e Agjencise pyjore, po ashtu ministria e ambientit do te kete ne kontrole ne aktivitetet komerciale brenda parkut, si dhe do te aprovoj planet menaxhues te pyjeve te cilat duhet te hartohen nga ana e agjencise pyjore, dhe te gjitha aktivitetet komerciale duhet te jene me standarde nderkomtare.

**Si te planifikojme per nje PN te ardhshme dhe te trajtojme turizmin ne BN**

Hartimi i planit menaxhues te parkut nacional, krijon bazen per zhvillimin e ekoturizmit, dhe menaxhimit te qendrueshem te parkut. Ky plan menaxhues duhet te punohet nga njerez profesional, dhe mos te jeti i njëanshëm (autoritetet qendrore, ministrit) por duhet te perfshihen dhe komuniteti.