Policies and implemented tools for digitalization of Natural heritage in Gorenjska region (Slovenia)

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Presentation of Gorenjska region

Area: 2,137 km² (11% of Slovenia)
Population: 203,654 (10% of Slovenia)
Population density: 95 people/km² (Slovenia: 102/km²)

Presentation of Gorenjska region

- **Alpine region** (40% lies above 1000 m)
- Rich **natural and cultural heritage**
- 2 mio overnight stays of tourists per year (20% of all in Slovenia), of which 80% by foreign tourists
- Good geo-traffic position and **accessibility**
- **Forests** cover 60% of the region
- Economy based on **service sector** and **SME initiative**
- 16,437 € GDP per capita in 2015 (18,693 € in Slovenia)

Sources: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Regional Development Program of Gorenjska 2014-2020

Future development mainly based on:

- Sustainable Tourism
- Wood production
- Metal processing industry
Presentation of regional natural heritage

Nature protection
1985 – Gorenjska Regional Institute for Natural and Cultural Heritage
2001 – Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (IRSNC) with 7 regional units, including RU Kranj

Legislation
1999 - Nature Conservation Act (NCA)
2002 - Regulation of types of valuable natural features
(based on their characteristics → 10 types + fossils and minerals)
2004 - Rules on the designation and protection of valuable natural features
(specifies the required features, classifies national/local, determines protection/conservation guidelines and regulation)
2004 - The Law on the Protection of underground caves
(regulates protection and usage of caves, including regimes and measures, defines public access, etc)
Presentation of regional natural heritage

Valuable natural features

Valuable natural features = ex. natural heritage

Rare, valuable, renowned natural phenomena, as well as other worth natural phenomena, components or parts of animate or inanimate nature, natural areas or their parts, ecosystems, landscape, and certain parts of designed nature

Protected areas

“Protection” is an example of protection measures. Protection measures are executed from the side of state or local community, to protect valuable natural features, or to assure conservation (processes), or preserve nature.
Presentation of regional natural heritage

Example: List of valuable natural features and their “importance” classification:

Appendix to the Regulation of types of valuable natural features

(http://www.arso.gov.si/narava/naravne%20vrednote/PravilnikNaravneVrednote_2015_Cistopis_01072015.pdf)
Presentation of regional natural heritage

Valuable natural features and protected areas in Gorenjska region

- Protected areas – points
- Valuable natural features – points
- Protected areas – areas
- Valuable natural features – areas
Presentation of regional natural heritage

„Protected area“ is an area protected under the most rigorous of four NCA protection measures:

- Protection
- Temporary protection
- Contractual protection
- Renewal

Protected areas

- small: natural monument, strict natural reserve, nature reserve
- large: national park, regional park, landscape park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gorenjska / all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total area (surface)</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected areas (surface)</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valuable natural features (area)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valuable natural features (number)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Digitization of natural heritage

Start in 1999 → Paper archive to digital

LIFE project in 2007 → Unified information system for all nature protection related national datasets (Valuable natural features, Protected areas, Natura 2000 sites, Ecologically important areas)

NATURE CONSERVATION ATLAS (NCA = NVA)

Public access

IRSNC’s work-tool

http://www.naravovarstveni-atlas.si/

http://nva.gisportal.si/web

NVA as the source for a Nexto-like platform updating
Enter NVA – public access

http://www.naravovarstveni-atlas.si/
Enter NVA – work access

http://nva.gisportal.si/web

More data!
Enter NVA – work access  http://nva.gisportal.si/web
Digitization of natural heritage – Scientific goals

- Quality data (base)
- Unified work methods
- (Easier) **integration** of nature conservation principles & legislation **into sectoral planning** and projects
- **Reporting** (EU directives: Natura 2000 & INSPIRE)
- Enabling **public access** to (public) data
Digitization of natural heritage – Advertisement goals

- **Public can get direct information** on nature conservation (NC) related data

- Other bodies (municipalities, spatial planning companies, …) can retrieve NC data for their applications (NVA – AO: [http://gis.arso.gov.si/atlasokolja/](http://gis.arso.gov.si/atlasokolja/) - Slovene Environmental atlas)

- **Presentations to stakeholders**

- **Source of information** for public awareness activities (educational trails in nature, publications, …)
Digitization – Advertisement goals

Database

NATURE CONSERVATION ATLAS

Various portals and mobile apps with the aim to raise awareness and attract visitors

I feel Slovenia / www.slovenia.info

GEAGO / www.geago.si

DEDI / www.dedi.si

Nexto Guide / www.nexto.io

www.monolit2go.si
Regional and national challenges

- Natural and cultural heritage – together or separated?
- Public-friendly „public access“ application
- To use the relevant parts of (scientific) data for touristic and similar goals - NVA as the source for a Nexto-like platform updating
- Too many / a lot of portals (*How many is too many?*)
Thank you for your attention!

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