

THE PLIVA LAKES - SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM VALORIZATION

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The Pliva lakes that include the Great and Small Lake formed by the transformation of the Pliva are the biggest natural reservoir in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This region is a unique area in Bosnia and Herzegovina in many aspects. The area of Pliva lakes has been a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2007. The Commission for national monuments proclaimed this area as a National Monument under the name of "Cultural landscape – the Pliva lakes with the complex of mills on the Pliva near Jajce". According to the regional plan of the Central Bosnia Canton and Jajce municipality, the Pliva lakes should represent a protected area that is a clearly defined entity by natural factors, which is the backbone of the river Pliva. The protected area should cover the entire course of the river Pliva, which is located in the administrative units of municipalities Jajce, Jezero and Šipovo. The same plans suggest that this area should be a protected area of the fifth category or a protected landscape of the sixth category according to the IUCN categorization.

For more than a century, the area of the Pliva valley has contributed to the intensive economic development, primarily through the construction of the first hydroelectric power plant in the Balkans for the needs of "Elektrobosna" which was built in 1890, and then through the hydroelectric power plant "Jajce I" that uses most of the water from the Great Pliva lake. The development of transport and tourism disrupt the natural processes that permanently alter the landscape and biodiversity of the area. What also greatly affects the transformation of the area of Pliva lakes is the development of tourism, which was intensively developed after the 50s of the last century, and again intensified after the war. Without a doubt, this area suffers from significant anthropogenic impacts permanently damaging natural links and relations, and this is evidenced by the stagnation of growing tuff, the emergence of aquatic vegetation as an indicator of pouring municipal wastewater, water-logging, and inadequate draining of the lake. A significant example of the anthropogenization of this area is the construction work on the riverbed of the Pliva, particularly interventions at the mouth, which are implemented in order to protect but contributed to the complete modification of the natural space.

The correct legislative protection, which is reflected in the IUCN categorization of protected areas, and applying the correct environmental policy can lead to the proper sustainable management of space, which will provide long-term enjoyment of the natural environment of the Pliva lakes. The sustainable management of the area can provide

sustainable economic development, primarily through the development of selective forms of tourism. In addition to the existing tourism offer based on short stay and rich cultural, historical and natural heritage, the development of tourism through selective forms will enable the sustainable use of resources, increase of the number of visits, extension of the tourist season and increase of economic effects.

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