

Analysis of the state and offer of the hospitality facilities in special nature reserves in Vojvodina

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Special Nature Reserves (abbreviated - SNR) are the most valuable protected areas, in which nature is unchanged or slightly changed. These include the habitats of endangered and rare species of wild plants, animals and fungi, without settlements or with rare settlements where man lives in line with nature. The establishment of the SNR is carried out in order to preserve the existing natural features, gene pool, ecological balance, monitoring of natural phenomena and processes, preservation of traditional way of life (Epler Wood, 2002; Szabados and Kicošev, 2006).

These rare natural oasis with preserved geo, bio and landscape diversity become part of the tourist offer, which requires the organization to provide food and beverage services to visitors. Such services complement their impression of visited area, regardless of the motive for the visit, which an essential factor is various and authentic offer of food (but also drinks) prepared exclusively with ingredients from these areas. Accordingly, the task was to investigate the situation and offer of hospitality facilities of special nature reserves on the territory from the perspective of tourism development in order to observe the current situation.

The survey was conducted on the territory of AP Vojvodina (abbreviated APV), which has 16 protected special nature reserves including (www.pzzp.rs): SNR "Deliblatska peščara", SNR "Obedska bara", SNR "Okanj bara" SNR "Ludaško jezero", SNR "Carska bara", SNR "Gornje Podunavlje", SNR "Koviljsko - petrovaradinski rit", SNR "Pašnjaci velike droplje", SNR "Slano Kopovo", SNR "Karadjordjevo", SNR "Zasavica", SNR "Selevenjske pustare", SNR "Kraljevac" and SNR "Bagremara", SNR "Ritovi donjeg Potisja" and SRP "Titelski breg".

For the purposes of data collection we carried out field research, personal insight and interviews with the persons responsible for these areas.

Insight into situation in hospitality facilities and offer, but from the perspective of ownership, as an important factor in the development of the regional economy led to finding that only two managers of protected areas in Vojvodina have hospitality facilities in their ownership, namely:

- Conservation Movement in Sremska Mitrovica, which manages the SNR "Zasavica" and

- Fish farm “Ečka” ad headquartered in Lukino Selo, which manages the SNR “Carska bara”.

Interestingly, Zasavica and Carska Bara are the most visited protected areas in Vojvodina. In the past five years, Zasavica has been visited by over 220.000 people (just in 2012, it had 80.000 visitors, during the exhibition of World of Dinosaurs) while Carska Bara by 70.000.

The SNR “Zasavica” is known for cultivating special mangalica breed, which meat has a high-quality nutritional composition, creating significant economic opportunities through the production of traditionally produced fermented sausages (Zekić et al., 2011) and other meat products, as well as through the production of cheese from the milk of donkeys bred in the reserve, which is perhaps the most expensive cheese in the world (1 kg = 1.000 euros). These are the elements that make the reserve a significant destination in the development of selective forms of tourism, but certainly the gastronomic tourism.

Zasavica has a simple hospitality facility that offers a standard, but quite authentic offer, such as: Podolian cattle goulash, mangalica goulash, goulash of donkey meat, bacon, paprika flavoured sausage and sausages, which they produce.

Unlike Zasavica, Carska Bara contains “Sibila” Hotel, with a capacity of 40 beds, with a national restaurant specialized in the preparation of fish and wildlife, with an emphasis on fish that are grown in their ponds. As a specialty, they recommend to their guests Catfish with truffles, Povrltarski smuđ (Perch) and Carp from Ečka with protected origin (Kalenjuk et al., 2012), which guarantees its nutritional qualities. Standard gastronomic offer includes specialties typical for Vojvodina cuisine including Imperial fish soup, stuffed and smoked carp, fish burgers, fried and grilled fish and the similar.

Interviewing the heads of protected areas it is concluded that one of the main reasons why they avoid dealing with hospitality is the lack of money for hiring additional skilled labour and “unprofitability”. What is certain and what can be seen in the cases of Zasavica and Carska Bara is that they do not recognize the opportunity and the chance to make money and do not see the connection between hospitality facilities for food and drinks and an increase in the number of visitors in protected areas, which can bring them extraordinary profits that can be used to finance active protective measures in protected areas.



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