

# **Assessment of participatory processes in the creation of spatial plan for the Nature Park Medvednica**

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- In 1981 Medvednica, with area of 22 826 ha, was declared for nature park (the Act to designate on the western part of the Nature Park Medvednica; "Official Gazette" No. 24/81).
- 42 km long and extends from northeast - southwest;
- Today's area 17,938 ha, highest peak is Sljeme -1033 m
- The Government of Croatia had founded the Public agency (in 1998) "Park prirode Medvednica" which manages the park and has 17 employees.
- The declaration phenomenon -well preserved natural forest *phytocenoses*, 65% of the area (By decree in 1998).
- Nature Protection Act obligates that the protection, regulation, promotion and use of National Park and Nature Park should be determined by a spatial plan, and that the plan should be approved by the Parliament of Croatia.
- Medvednica at the moment still doesn't have spatial plan.

Environmental Committee of the Croatian Parliament on September 16<sup>th</sup> 2008 made a statement in which they changed the boundaries and reduced the area of the park from 22 826 ha to a smaller surface of 17,938 ha.

This statement is based on "The specialized background to change the boundaries of the park Medvednica" made by the State Institute for Nature Protection in July 2005.

## Dimensions of the research

**Type of research:** Applied research

**Purpose of the research:** Descriptive - explanatory

**Time dimension:** Cross-sectional

**Direction of theorizing:** Deductive approach

**Time span of research:** Three years

**Unit of analysis:** Individual, group

**Target group of the research:** stakeholders of the Medvednica's spatial planning process

## Research question:

*How do participatory processes influence the creation of spatial plan for the Nature Park Medvednica?*

## Methodology

- The study will be conducted in a framework of stakeholder analysis,
- The identification of stakeholders will be done by impact zoning (IFC, 1998), following the guidelines of Brown (2007).
- Further development of the stakeholder's list will be done via snowball technique.
- In-depth interviews with stakeholders,
- The data will be analyzed in a software appropriate for discourse analysis (MAXQDA).

## **By using a stakeholder analysis**

- One can facilitate inclusion of stakeholders that otherwise would be overlooked or marginalized.
- This is a descriptive and normative approach to the decision making process that reveals power relationships.
- The process can be a contribution to decision making improvement as well as it could bring legitimacy to the process by incorporating a wide range of stakeholders' knowledge.

## **The level of stakeholder's participation**

- Will be assessed through the framework of “ladder of participation” (Arnstein, 1969),
- 7 steps: Manipulation, Therapy, Consultation, Placation, Partnership, Delegated power and Citizen Control.
- The respective level of participation is a reflection of stakeholders interest to participate, and also of its power.

## Theoretical background Social exchange theory



### The nature of the theory :

- The Social exchange theory has its roots in psychology, sociology and economics, and its first application was to explain the actions of actors in an economic activity (Hormans, 1958.),
- But unlike economic exchange, in social exchange the object of exchange can be basically anything that an actor perceives as a benefit (profit, reward, trust, status, reputation, clean air, etc.).

- ◉ Social behavior is an exchange of goods, material goods but also non-material ones, such as the symbols of approval or prestige.
- ◉ Persons that give much to others try to get much from them, and persons that get much from others are under pressure to give much to them.

**With respect to the chosen theoretical background and methodology, the following variables have been identified:**

- ◉ **Dependent variable:**  
Level of participation
- ◉ **Independent variables:**  
Reciprocity  
Justice principle  
Coercion  
Benefits and costs of participation  
(Social participation, Economical participation)

## **These variables are connected in a form of hypotheses listed below:**

1. If there is an increase in the perceived reciprocity of a social exchange, then the level of stakeholders participation will increase
2. If there is an increase in the perception of justice principle, then the level of stakeholders participation will increase
3. If there is an increase in the coercion of a stakeholder, then the level of stakeholders participation will decrease
4. If there is an increase the level of social participation, then the level of stakeholders participation will decrease
5. If there is an increase in the level of economical participation, then the level of stakeholders participation will decrease
6. Type of benefit (economic, social, environmental) which stakeholder may receive for participating in the formulation of a spatial plan is the predominant factor for his inclusion in the process

## **Objectives of this study:**

- To describe past and current spatial planning situation of the Nature park Medvednica,
- To identify the issues and stakeholders concerning the creation of spatial plan for the nature park Medvednica,
- To identify and analyze the key conflict areas that affect the formulation of spatial plan,
- To analyze the level of participation of stakeholders in the context of fulfillment of their own interests,
- To assess the influence of participation of different stakeholder groups on the process of spatial plan formulation,

The results of the research are expected to provide a detailed description of stakeholders and their influence on the respective spatial planning process.



**Thank you**