

KEY INFORMATION FOR PROTECTED AREA: NATURE PARK ŽUMBERAK, SAMOBORSKO GORJE, CROATIA Is shape file available?

The whole protected area is to be included in the project, surface 34.235,98 ha.

Maps of protected area including borders of the protected area:

- Topographic map (available on – line at Information system for Nature Protection: <http://www.bioportal.hr/gis/> and can be adjusted for project purposes) – if needed, please contact us because some of our staff have permit for certain content
- Geological / geomorphological map NO

Basic biodiversity data

1. Share (%) of main ecosystem types
60% forest, 36.5% non – forest ecosystem types (out of that 21% arable land, 4% orchards, 70% grasslands – both meadows and pastures).
2. Presence of habitat types according to:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/docs/Int_Manual_EU28.pdf or EUNIS classification _ are maps available? Mapping is in progress on the national level

4030 European dry heaths

6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)(* important orchid sites)

6230 * Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)

6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels

6510 Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)

6520 Mountain hay meadows

7230 Alkaline fens

8310 Caves not open to the public

9110 Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests

91K0 Illyrian Fagus sylvatica forests (Aremonio-Fagion)

91L0 Illyrian oak –hornbeam forests (Erythronio-Carpinion)
91M0 Pannonian-Balkan turkey oak- sessile oak forests
7220* Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)
9260 Castanea sativa woods

3. Presence of species of EU interest (Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive), Annex I Birds Directive species _ use data from Standard Data Forms in case of Natura 2000 areas; attractive/sensitive species – are species distribution maps available?

Please, find the document enclosed (N2K HR2000586), with one correction – meanwhile, the Management Plan has been adopted.

Brief description of formal designation (legal status) and managing organisation (max. 100 words)

The area of Žumberak and the Samoborsko gorje (Samobors's surrounding hills) was designated a Nature Park as a protected natural resource by the Act of the Croatian parliament on 28th May, 1999. A Nature Park is a vast wild or partly cultivated area of countryside and/or sea, ecologically valuable on international or national level with important countryside, educational, cultural, historical, tourist and recreational resources. Nature Park Žumberak - Samoborsko gorje covers around 342 km². The basic aim of the Public Institution (established in 2001) managing Nature Park is to protect and promote environmental and cultural values and resources of the area.

Has a management plan been adopted for the protected area (please describe in few sentences)?

Yes, the first ever management plan for the protected area of Nature Park Žumberak – Samoborsko gorje has just been adopted in February 2017 for the next 10year period (2017 – 2026). It is a brief summary of the policies and activities which will regulate the way of managing the protected area, available as a public document for the area inhabitants, business sector, professionals and other individuals. The Plan is to be a subject of revision after the 5year period of implementation.

Which sectors have the most significant impact on biodiversity in the area (please rate 3-high, 2-medium, 1-low)?

- Agriculture 3
- Forestry 2
- Hunting and fisheries 1
- Nature conservation 2
- Tourism 1
- Water management 1
- Transportation 1
- Industry 1
- Households 1

Land ownership – please assess the percentage of land owned publicly or privately:

We have precise data only for the forests, and according to the cadastre. The real situation is a bit different due to land use changes – many grasslands are overgrown into forest but in the cadastre they are still filed as grasslands.

- Agricultural land (approx. 34% of the Nature Park area, out of that: 21% arable land, 4% fruit orchards, 5% vineyards, 37% meadows, 33% pastures); almost all private land.

Public: _____%; Private: _____%

- Forests (60% of the Nature Park surface according to the cadastre, but in reality, it is a higher percentage; non – forest area is 36,5% of Nature Park)

Public: 66%; Private: 34 %

- Other land (settlements and the construction area 1,8% of the Nature Park area)

Public: _____%; Private: _____%

What are the main threats to biodiversity in the protected area?

Illegal logging (low impact)

Pollution (low impact)

Illegal dumping (medium impact)

Urban expansion (not at this point, rather the opposite)

Soil erosion (low impact)

Land use intensification (no)

Other: land use abandonment, thus vegetation succession (grasslands overgrowth)

Where do you see the main opportunities for pro-biodiversity business (PBB) development related to the protected area?

Gaining awareness on benefits of ecosystem services and accomplishing profit from it is crucial for attracting people (back) to the area. The main opportunities might be in connecting high biodiversity values and education on harvesting wild foods, game hunting, fresh air, recreational benefits, rural tourism development (especially home food production, traditional agriculture and using rural architecture), cultural tourism (historical and archaeological sites connected with nature).

Who are the main stakeholders you can identify at this early stage that will be involved in the process of mapping ecosystem services and biodiversity opportunities and generating the action plan for opportunities to come true?

Local inhabitants (or better their heirs) who might decide to return to their roots and make the living based on their family heritage, other landowners, hunting societies, external investors who can hire local people, foresters etc.