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EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

URBforDAN

URBforDAN Strategic Planning Guidelines

Joint methodology / approach for preparation of Strategic parts
of Integrated multi-use Management Plans – FINAL VERSION

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Ljubljana

26.04.2019

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1. Introduction

1.1. About the URBforDAN Project

Management and Utilization of Urban Forests as Natural Heritage in Danube Cities (with acronym URBforDAN) is an EU co-financed project, which was designed to deliver a change in urban forest management and utilization of ecosystem services (ES). URBforDAN project is being implemented in 7 Danube Cities – Ljubljana (SLO), Vienna (AT), Budapest (HUN), Zagreb (CRO), Cluj-Napoca (ROM), Belgrade (SRB) and Ivano-Frankivsk (UA). Its' implementation is closely observed by 3 associated partner cities – Prague (CZE), Sarajevo (BIH) and Podgorica (MNE), as well as by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Urban and Peri-urban Forests (UPF) in Danube Cities play extremely important role as “green city lungs” - preserving rich biodiversity of Europe and its vivid landscape. They also deliver many economically and socially important ecosystem services – UPF are key areas for experiencing natural and cultural heritage within cities, important tourist attractions, areas for recreation and high quality of living.

All URBforDAN Cities face similar challenges – all manage substantial NH areas (mostly UPF) within their city limits. Due to their characteristics they attract many users (citizens, tourists...), but also have many stakeholders (managers, owners, interest groups...) trying to manage those activities. Today, this is usually done without proper coordination of all stated key actors. UPF also lack appropriate infrastructure and equipment to cope with ever increasing number of users. Thus, UPF are under increasing pressure from diverse set of activities, arising conflicts and unsustainable use of resources – all leading to poor state of NH. Management of UPF in some cities is further challenged by the extreme fragmentation of the ownership (which is often mostly private).

This is why URBforDAN takes on the challenge of mobilization of key actors in URBforDAN Cities to ensure their active participation in integrated planning/management. Protection regimes, mapping/valuation of ecosystem services and development ideas will be combined through a participatory process to deliver Integrated multi-use Management Plans for UPF on strategic and operational level. UPF Danube Network will be established to strengthen the cooperation between key actors, ensure timely knowledge/best-practice sharing, dissemination/transferability of project outputs and enable further capitalization. UPF managers, owners and users will be equipped with management tools supporting multi-purpose use of UPF and exploiting new opportunities for sustainable development. Participatory Planning & UPF Management Guidelines will be developed, based on lessons learned and best practices used.

1.2. About URBforDAN Strategic Planning Guidelines

The overall aim of this document is to support URBforDAN partners in development of Strategic parts of Integrated multi-use Management Plans. This is not a comprehensive guide, but rather a support tool for Project Partners, providing them with a clear joint methodology / approach and an universal template. It was designed and developed by a team of experts from Slovenia Forest Service and external experts of the company ZaVita d.o.o.

2. A template for Strategic part of the Integrated Multi-use Management Plan (IMMP) with guidelines for its development

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The objective of strategic plan

In this chapter, you should include the following text with modifications according to your assessment:

The aim of the Strategic part of the IMMP plan is to identify demands towards urban and peri-urban forests (UPF), potential conflicts between different forest uses, to define strategic long-term management objectives in UPF, and to define priorities amongst management objectives and ES. The strategic part also defines management guidelines that represent the basis for the definition of operational goals and measures.

1.2. The planning process and participation

In this chapter, you should explain how did the planning process unfold? Who was involved in the preparation of the plan? Which databases, documents etc. were considered in preparation of the plan?

Note that strategic plan should be prepared in a participatory manner. A group of experts (e.g. forestry institutions, city representatives, etc.) should lead the process of plan preparation. However, inputs from different scientific disciplines, which have competences in forest use in UPF (e.g. representatives of landscape parks, nature conservation agencies, etc.) should be considered – either through meetings, exchange of spatial information or received guidelines and suggestions for improvement. All the available documents (e.g. forest management plans, spatial plans, Decrees on City Forests, etc.) and legal documents (see chapter 1.3) must be considered when preparing the Strategic part of the IMMP.

1.3 Legal basis

In this chapter, you should explain which legal documents were the bases for the framework for the planning process and how they were taken into account and incorporated in the Strategic part of the IMMP.

Note that strategic plan should be prepared based on key legal documents – for example Forestry Act, Regulations on Forest planning and management, Decree on urban forests, Act on protection forests, Forest management plans, etc.

1.4 Terminology

In this chapter you describe the main terms uses in the strategic part of the plan (if any); for example ecosystem services, forest functions, strategic part, urban forests

SFS will prepare the terminology for our plan for Ljubljana UPF and we will disseminate the terminology to you so you will only need to add if you have some additional terms in your strategic plan.

2 ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF THE ART

2.1 Basic data on the strategic area

In this chapter, you describe basic characteristics of your strategic area (data sources: land use plans, forest management plans, management plans for parks etc.):

- forest area in ha, other land uses within the strategic area, a map of land use in the strategic area

- ownership of the forest, map of the ownership structure
- basic data on forests: forest types, tree species composition, productivity, annual harvest (if any)
- other information that you consider relevant

2.2 Ecosystem services in UPF

In this chapter, you will describe shortly the main ecosystem services that you found relevant and that you mapped for your UPF. In the table, you should put all the mapped ES that have the 1st and the 2nd rank of importance and put the surface area of ES of 1st and 2nd rank and the % of total forest area in the table as well. For each ecosystem service, you should provide a short explanation (1 paragraph) in the text (why is this ES relevant for your UPF, where in your UPF it is recognized as having the highest importance).

Table: Summary of the most important ES (In the table, you should include all the ES you mapped with 1st and 2nd rank and the area in ha)

Ecosystem service (ES) – area (ha) and % of entire forest area – only 1 st rank and 2 nd rank	Individual objective/ES	Area (ha) and % of entire forest area
Provisioning ES	11_Timber production	
	12_Non-timber products	
	13_Provision of drinking water	
Regulating ES	21_Local climate mitigation	
	22_Local air quality	
	23_Protection against noise pollution	
	24_Regulation of floods	
	25_Protection against erosion	
	26_Waste-water treatment	
Supporting ES	31_Nature protection / habitats for species	
Cultural ES	41_Recreation and tourism	
	42_Scientific / educational	
	43_Cultural heritage	

2.3 Target groups

Describe the main target groups/ stakeholders that the strategy will address (e.g., city inhabitants, visitors, educational institutions, forest owners). Include a short paragraph for each.

Note that you can define and describe the target groups with the help of analysis of target groups based on the survey made in your focus area.

3 THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In this chapter you will need to present the overall strategy - what are the main priorities (i.e., your long-term strategic objectives) for your UPF that will help you to promote the desired ecosystem services in your UPF? You should list the strategic priorities and for each one, provide a short explanation (a sentence or two). For each priority, define the main target groups that the priority is addressing.

Note that you should define your strategic priorities based on the overview of important ecosystem services in your area, the recognized conflicts, the challenges in forest management and the legal and planning frameworks.

4 THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT OF UPF

In this chapter, you should develop a strategic map that will set spatial priorities among ES/ management objectives in your UPF: on which part of your UPF you want to prioritize which uses? E.g., where in your UPF

you want to promote intensive types of recreation and where you want more quiet places that can be used by kindergartens and schools?

Note that when you do the prioritisation, you should consider the conflicts that already appear among different uses of the forest. You do not need to do the prioritization among all ES; you should include here the ES that are the most important in UPF (i.e., high public interests for ES) and 2) demand active approach (i.e. adapted management regime). You should follow some guidelines for preparation of the strategic map:

1. On one area, only one ES can be mapped as the most important (maps of ES of the 1st and 2nd ranks are the main basis for the designation).
2. Only in cases when you cannot decide, you can map two ES – the overlapping should be clearly marked on the map and arguments should be provided in the text bellow the map
3. Mark main entry points for recreational use and main connecting ways for recreation.

Bellow the strategic map, you should explain the map with priority ES.

5 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

In this chapter, you should define the strategic management objectives for each priority defined in Chapter 3 and define management guidelines to achieve them

5.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Describe the problem (1-2 paragraphs)

Strategic objective	Define the strategic objective which should be linked to the main priority (there can be more objectives within the same priority)
State (SWOT)	Main strengths, weaknesses, possibilities and threats
Guideline	Define the guideline - how you plan to achieve the strategic objective (there can be more guidelines for the same objective, each should be described with the same structure as followed)
Detailed directions:	In some bullet points, list detailed directions for achieving management objective within the main guideline
Responsible entity:	Who is responsible for the management?
Needed participation:	Who collaborates?
Coordination with other ES:	Possible conflicts with other ES?
Positive outcomes:	List
Negative outcomes:	List
Legal basis	List if any

6 GOVERNANCE

In this chapter, you should define the governance model for your UPF. How will management be organized, who will be responsible for implementation of the strategic plan?

How will measures be supported by financial instruments?