

Protection and management of Zasavica Special Nature Reserve: a tool for sustainable development, Nature Conservation Movement of Sremska Mitrovica

Supporting Serbia's attempts to adopt the European Union Habitats Directive and the protection of two endangered cattle species, this project facilitated the development of a management and development plan, detailing protection methods and new opportunities for the reserve. Nature conservation in Serbia was predominantly based on the traditional approach of isolating protected areas from human activity in and around these areas. Nature conservation organisations lacked the capacity to work with modern approaches like those promoted by the directive. In view of the rapprochement of Serbia to the European Union, there was a need to introduce these new approaches, including participatory management planning, the identification, designation and management of protected areas, and linking nature conservation with the wider perspective of rural development.



The Committee of Ministers acknowledged and praised the great value of each project presented for the 5th Session 2016-2017 of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention and recommended making it well-known to the general public for its exemplary value, and as a source of inspiration. "Protection and Management of Zasavica Special Nature Reserve: a Tool for Sustainable Development" has promoted the public's awareness of natural habitats and its participation in initiatives to protect ecosystems and biodiversity in a way that is particularly favourable to the sustainable development of the rural environment.