

Declaration on the Sava River Basin Protected Areas Network

SAVA PARKS

Zagreb, 2nd February 2015

Declaration on the development of the Sava River Protected Areas Network, signed on World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2015. The signing institutions and organization comprise ministerial representatives from environmental and cultural sectors, state institutions engaged in the protection of nature, both public and private bodies responsible for protected areas management, as well as national and international civil society organizations active in nature conservation along the Sava River and its tributaries. The parties to this declaration are connected by their responsibility for the conservation of the typical aquatic and alluvial biodiversity features and habitats along the Sava River, from its source in the Slovenian Alps down to its confluence with the Danube River in Belgrade and along its tributaries.

The representatives of these organizations and institutions signed this declaration on the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2015,

SHARING their common mission to conserve natural values and resources, ecosystem services and cultural heritage for current and future generations;

REMEMBERING that the trans-boundary Sava River, its tributaries and floodplains represent ecosystems with high biodiversity value, ecological, environmental, scenic, scientific and cultural significance of both national and international importance;

EMPHASIZING the need for cross-border co-operation for their conservation and for wise use of the entire Sava River basin;

SHARING the conviction that protected areas along the Sava River course can play a key role both in conserving and enhancing Europe's natural and cultural heritage and in setting a path towards environmentally sustainable lifestyles and regional development;

TAKING account of the European Union's nature conservation legislation, especially the Birds and Habitat Directives and the Water Framework Directive, to conserve and improve aquatic and floodplain biodiversity, to restore the hydromorphology and environmental flows and to achieve a good quantitative and qualitative status for surface and ground water resources;

REMEMBERING that the Sava River is the second largest tributary of the Danube River and keeping in mind the relevance of international conventions (such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River Basin and the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin to maintain and improve the water quality and environmental conditions of the Sava River and connected ecosystems;

WITH THE CONVICTION that future international actions aimed at maintaining the ecological functions and ecosystem services provided by the natural and cultural riverine landscapes, ensuring wise use, preventing and reducing pollution, as well as ensuring that hydromorphological and hydrological alterations should be undertaken as part of a pro-active and coherent programme for the protection of the Sava River basin environment;

AWARE that individual actions taken by bodies managing protected areas are not sufficient to conserve the ecological integrity and biological continuity of the trans-boundary Sava River basin;

EMPHASIZING that the co-operation between the network members will be based on synergetic activities involving their complementary networks, as well as on the exchange of knowledge, experiences and skills to jointly support and develop protected areas in the Sava River basin, while respecting each other's integrity, distinctive character and individual programmes;

Establish a Sava River Protected Areas Network

– the SAVA PARKS Network –

co-operating in accordance with the following specific objectives:

1. To exchange, enhance and promote expertise in the management of natural sites in order to improve the protection of the Sava River, its floodplains and tributaries within the protected areas along the river and beyond;
2. To formulate guiding principles for nature conservation, river and floodplain restoration and wise use along the river course;
3. To raise awareness of the national and international importance of Sava River's biodiversity value through joint initiatives and to improve knowledge about the natural and cultural heritage of protected areas within the Sava river basin;
4. To co-operate and contribute to the activities of the SAVA PARKS Network;
5. To take action to promote environmental imperatives and wise use in sectorial policies and to mobilize national and European funds for nature conservation and river and floodplain restoration;

6. To influence the implementation and future development of national policies, regional programmes and EU Directives, to benefit the conservation of the natural heritage along the Sava River;
7. For the interim period, the undersigned representatives nominate Mr. Goran Gugić as the official representative of the SAVA PARKS Network in international fora.

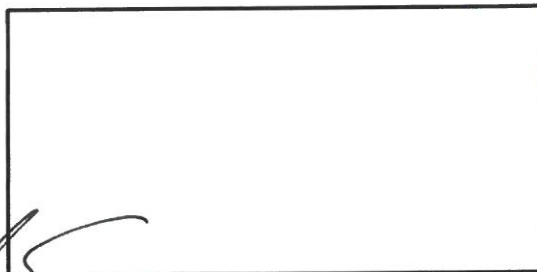
This Declaration shall become effective upon mutual signing by the network members.

Decisions on future network members are to be made by a steering committee of the network involving one representative of each of the network partners. Decisions will be taken at the time of the network's regular meetings.

EuroNature Foundation

Christel Schroeder

Signature:



Stamp

Kozjanski Park Public Institution

Teo Hrvoje Oršanič

Signature:



Stamp

Ljubljansko Barje Nature Park Public Institution

Barbara Zupanc

Signature:



Stamp

Notranjska Regional Park Public Institution

Matevž Podjed

Signature:



Stamp

Public Institution of Zagreb County

Green Ring

Martina Glasnović

Signature:

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be "M. Glasnović", is written on a white background.



Stamp

Public Institution for the Management of
the Protected Areas of the Sisak-Moslavina

County

Dragica Vugić

Signature

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be "D. Vugić", is written on a white background.



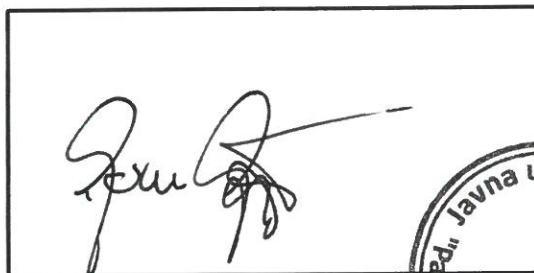
Stamp

Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public

Institution

Goran Gugić

Signature:



Stamp



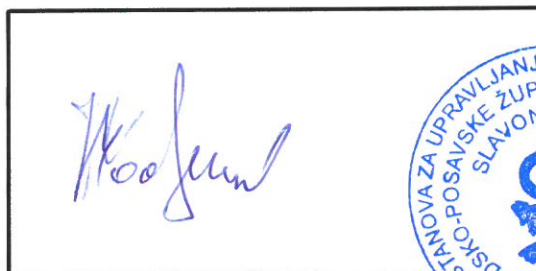
Public Institution for the Management of

The Protected Areas of the

Brod-Posavina County

Josip Bodrožić-Džakić

Signature:



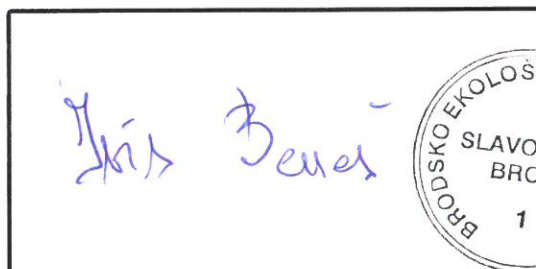
Stamp



Brod Ecological Society

Iris Beneš

Signature:



Stamp



Croatian Society for Birds and

Nature Protection

Tibor Mikuška

Signature:

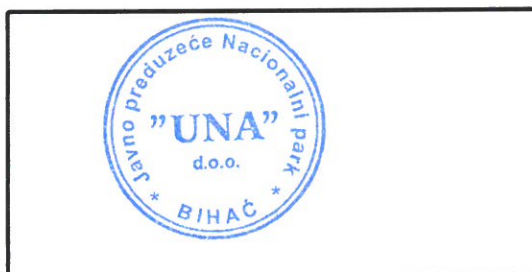
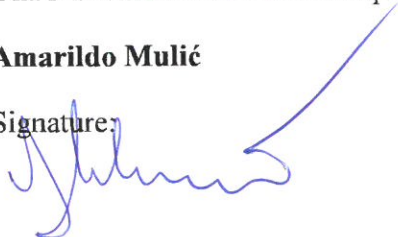


Stamp

Una National Park Public Company

Amarildo Mulić

Signature:

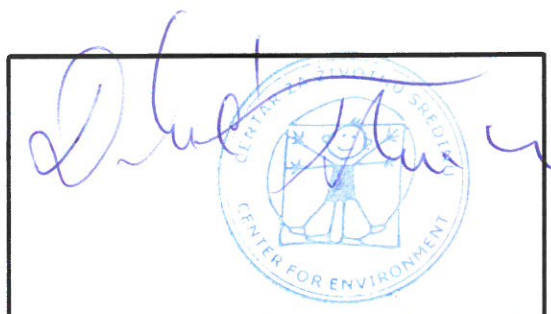


Stamp

Centre for Environment Banja Luka

Tihomir Dakić

Signature:



Stamp

Nature Conservation Movement

Sremska Mitrovica

Slobodan Simić

Signature:

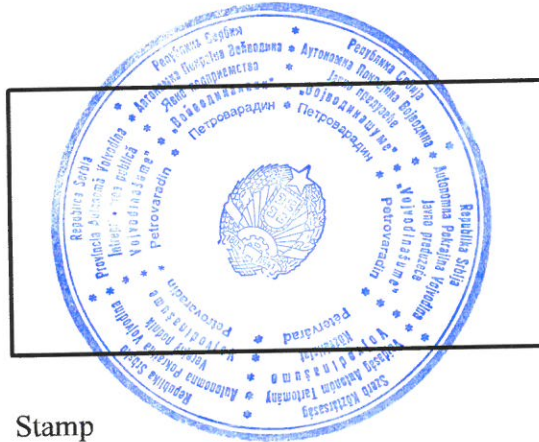


Stamp

Vojvodinašume Public Enterprise

Đorđe Šimunovački

Signature:

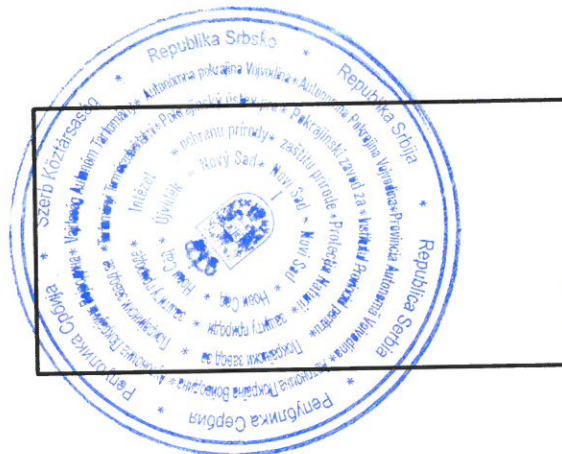


Stamp

Institute for Nature Conservation of
Vojvodina Province

Biljana Panjković

Signature:

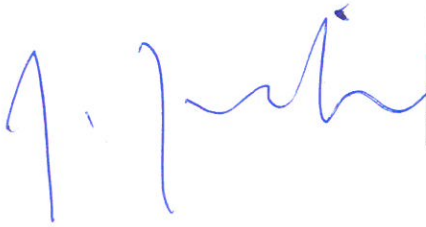


Stamp

Triglav National Park

Dr. Bogomil Breznik

Signature:

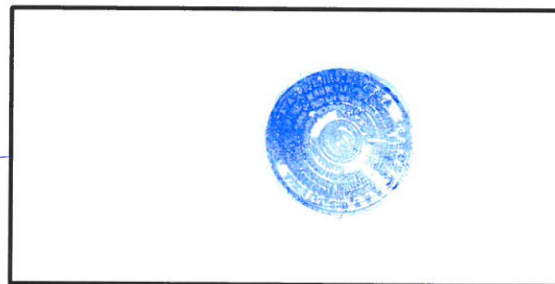
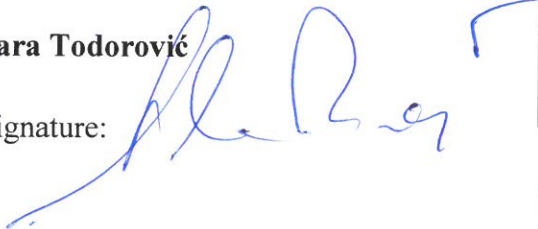


Stamp

Ministry of Education and Culture of
Republic of Srpska
Republic Institute for Protection of
Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage

Sara Todorović

Signature:



Stamp

Public Institution for the Management of
the Protected Areas of the Vukovar-Srijem
County

Nikola Križanac

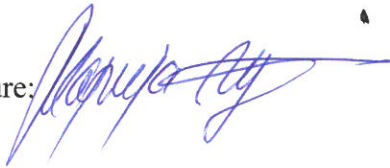
Signature:



Stamp

Tourism Organization of Ruma

Marija Čuić

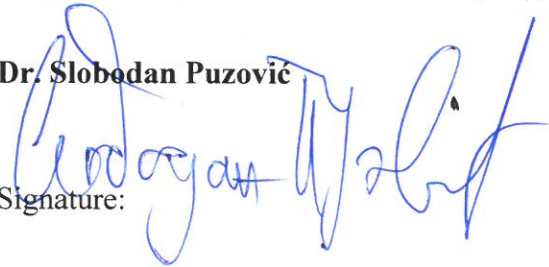
Signature: 

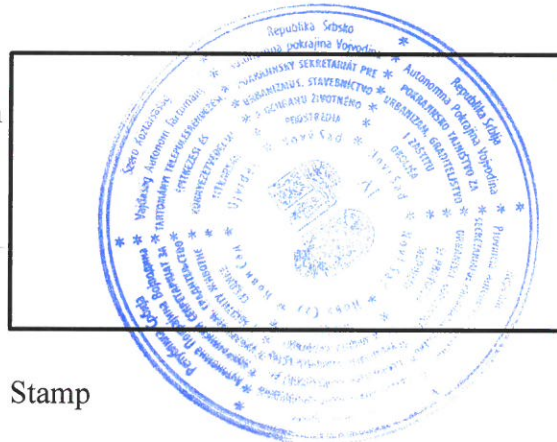


Stamp

Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning,
Construction and Environmental Protection

Dr. Slobodan Puzović

Signature: 



Stamp

Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature

Ivana Gudelj

Signature:



Stamp

Society for Research and Protection of Biodiversity

Jovica Sjeničić



Signature:



Stamp