

**5898. Decree on the Programme for Protection and Development of the Škocjan Caves Park for the 2006–2010 Period**, page 15649.

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 57/96, 7/99 – Cultural Heritage Protection Act and 110/02 – Construction Act) and in connection with Articles 107 and 108 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 35/02 and 60/04), the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia at its session on 19 December 2006 adopted the

**D E C R E E**  
**on the Programme for Protection and Development of the Škocjan Caves Park for the 2006–2010 Period**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Rationale of the exceptional value of the Škocjan Caves as a world heritage site

The Škocjan Caves are above all a natural phenomenon of global significance which can easily compete with the Grand Canyon, the coral reefs, the Galapagos Islands, Mount Everest etc. This is evidenced by the inclusion of the Škocjan Caves on UNESCO's list of natural and cultural world heritage sites (1986) under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972). Article 2 of the Convention stipulates that each inscribed world heritage territory must be of outstanding universal value from an aesthetic or scientific point of view and must be based on the capacity of the state to ensure long-term conservation of the territory (criterion of integrity).

#### 1.1.1 Rationale of scientific criteria for world heritage sites in the field of nature

- the largest known underground canyon in the world so far – UNESCO criterion a-i, a-iii;
- an example of the contact Karst which was formed at the contact point where flysch meets limestone; when describing collapsed dolines, karstologists based their writings on Velika and Mala dolina and the term is nowadays used in the international karstic terminology (*collapse dolines*); numerous Karst phenomena have developed in a small territory (sink holes, natural bridges, gorges, collapse dolines, abysses, underground canyon, passages covered with flowstone deposits, springs...) – UNESCO criterion a-i;
- Velika and Mala dolina, the part of caves with sink holes and the underground canyon are examples of extraordinary natural beauty and have a great aesthetic value – UNESCO criterion a-i;
- due to particular microclimatic conditions an exceptional ecosystem has developed in Velika and Mala dolina, in which the Mediterranean, Sub-Mediterranean, Central European, Illyrian and Alpine biogeographical elements co-exist. For instance, the Alpine (e.g. *Prumula auricula*) and Mediterranean species (e.g. *Adiantum Cpillus – Veneris*) grow side by side. Alpine species found shelter on the colder bottom part of collapsed dolines during warmer periods which followed ice ages (glacial relics) – UNESCO criterion a-ii, a-iv;
- Velika dolina is the typical locality of *Campanula justiniana* which grows only in the South-Western part of Slovenia (endemic species) while with regard to endangered animal species, bats and the subterranean cave fauna are most important – UNESCO criterion a-iv;
- the region has also a great cultural and historical significance as it has been inhabited since the Mesolithic period. The long-term coexistence between nature and people is reflected in the typical Karst cultural landscape, including the particular pattern of settlement and Karst structural heritage. The region has been historically important from the viewpoint of fundamental research of Karst and karstic phenomena since the 17th century (Valvasor). The evidentiary role of the Škocjan Caves for the period of organizing paths for tourist visits is also very important.

#### 1.1.2 Meeting the conditions of integrity for world heritage sites in the field of nature

In Slovenia only two regions meet the expert criteria for the inclusion on the list of natural and cultural world heritage sites, namely the Škocjan Caves and the system of Karst Ljubljana River, but the latter does not meet the criteria of integrity as the state must ensure long-term conservation of the region, that is adequate protection method; the protected area must be sufficiently large so that the conservation of characteristics which gave rise to its inclusion in the world heritage sites can be preserved; it must have a managing authority and a management plan, guaranteed financial funds and adequately trained personnel for the implementation of protection objectives. In accordance with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the state guarantees the conservation of inscribed region.

The Škocjan Caves are registered in the Ramsar Directory of Wetlands of International Importance under Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1972; hereinafter referred to as "the Ramsar Convention") as the first underground wetland (1999).

The conservation of bat populations and smooth migration are important for the compliance with obligations arising from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979; hereinafter referred to as "the Bonn Convention"), especially the Eurobats Agreement (the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats).

### **1.1.3 Obligations under European Union legislation**

The Škocjan Caves will be included in the Natura 2000 network because they are important for the maintenance of favourable states of preservation for the following important habitat types and species:

- 62A0 – Eastern sub-mediterranean dry grasslands (*Scorzoneretalia villosae*)
- 8210 – Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
- 8310 – Caves not open to the public (part of the cave system)
- 1304 – greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*)
- 1310 – Schreiber's long-fingered bat (*Miniopterus schreibersi*)
- 1316 – long-fingered bat (*Myotis capaccinii*)

If the protected area will be extended, also:

1186\* – cave salamander (*Proteus anguinus*)\*

From the viewpoint of the objectives of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22. 7. 1992, p. 7) with amendments (hereinafter referred to as "the Habitats Directive"), the Škocjan Caves are, due to their location between the Alps, the Dinaric Alps and the Mediterranean, the key element of integrity of the Pan-European Ecological Network. In the past, this area proved to be the place of refuge of various species following climate change, thus influencing their distribution.

By protecting the area of the Škocjan Caves, we guarantee the conservation of endangered plant and animal species of national importance in accordance with the Rules on the inclusion of endangered plant and animal species in the Red List (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 82/02); this area is also important due to its role in the long-term provision of survival and decent life of the local population.

The Škocjan Caves are an internationally acknowledged (UNESCO) area of global importance, therefore the responsibility of the state for their conservation is all the more greater and more important. The provisions of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage define protection standards which include legal protection (protected area) and organized management (expert supervision, monitoring of implementation, the manager, management plan, financial resources, personnel etc.).

The implementation of the abovementioned convention relates to the fulfilment of obligations from other ratified international regulations (the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Bonn Convention), European legislation (Natura 2000) and also the Nature Conservation Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 96/04 – official consolidated text).

## **1.2 The purpose of the establishment of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park**

The Škocjan Caves Regional Park (hereinafter referred to as "the ŠCRP") was established in 1996 with the view to conserve and research outstanding geomorphological, geological and hydrological sites, rare and endangered plant and animal species, paleontological and archeological sites, ethnological and architectural characteristics and cultural landscape, and to provide opportunities for adequate development. Due to their particular natural, cultural, historical and aesthetical value, individual parts of immovable natural and cultural heritage in the Park are specially protected by the law.

## **1.3 International significance of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park**

### ***1.3.1 The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) – UNESCO***

The World Heritage Convention, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference on 16 November 1972 in Paris, entered into force in 1976. Its aim is to determine, protect, present and transmit cultural and natural heritage of international importance to future generations.

By ratifying the Convention in 1992 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 15/92), Slovenia pledged to accept all obligations arising from the Convention. It also confirmed that the Škocjan Caves are to remain on the list of natural and cultural world heritage sites. The Škocjan Caves were included on the list in 1986 as an outstanding natural phenomenon.

### ***1.3.2 The Ramsar Convention***

The Ramsar Convention was adopted in Ramsar (Iran) in 1971 and entered into force in 1975. It defines wetlands rather broadly and provides for their adequate protection. Its main objective is to ensure the conservation of wetlands, especially those of international importance, through wise use, international co-operation and protection.

By ratifying the Convention in 1992 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 15/92), Slovenia pledged to accept all obligations arising from the Convention and in 1993 included Sečoveljske soline in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and the Škocjan Caves in 1999. The latter were included in the list as the first underground wetland.

### ***1.3.3 MAB – Man and the Biosphere Programme***

The Man and Biosphere Programme (hereinafter referred to as "MAB"), established in 1971, is an interdisciplinary programme of scientific research and training, within the natural and the social sciences, develops the basis for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, and for the improvement of the relationship between people and their environment globally. It has been prepared on the basis of principles of conservation of biologic diversity and simultaneous development of human population. The focus lies on integrated, cooperative and decentralized management, placing particular importance on co-operation with local communities.

The Škocjan Caves Park was accepted in the MAB programme in October 2004.

### ***1.3.4 The Alpine Convention***

The Convention on the Protection of the Alps (hereinafter referred to as "the Alpine Convention") stems from an initiative of the organization CIPRA (International Commission for the Protection of the Alps) and was signed at the Second Alpine Conference in Salzburg in 1991. It entered into force in March 1995. It represents a prime example of trans-boundary collaboration aimed at the protection and sustainable development of the Alpine areas. It links all managing authorities of protected areas in the Alps (national parks, natural parks, regional parks, natural reserves and biosphere reserves).

Slovenia signed the Convention on 29 March 1993 and ratified it in 1995 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 19/95 MP 5). In Slovenia, the Alpine Convention covers the region from Rateče to Maribor (the Julian Alps, the Karavanke chain, the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, the Pohorje) and to Nanos in the South West. The Škocjan Caves Park has been included in the Convention since 1998.

### ***1.3.5 Natura 2000***

Created by the European Union, the Natura 2000 project is aimed at the conservation of areas of internationally important animal and plant species and habitats. Areas of individual countries selected on the basis of uniform criteria form a network which represents the basis of the trans-boundary protection and natural heritage conservation. The baselines for project implementation are the following: Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 103,

25. 4. 1979, p. 1) with amendments (hereinafter referred to as "the Birds Directive"), the Habitats Directive and the decisions of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg relating to both Directives. Prior to its accession to the EU, Slovenia had to define its own internationally important Natura 2000 areas. In accordance with both Directives, the Škocjan Caves Park and part of its area of influence are included in the Natura 2000 areas. The Škocjan Caves Park has its own communication group which started to operate in spring 2003. Its fundamental task is to inform the Divača Municipality and local inhabitants about the aim and significance of the Natura 2000 project.

### **1.3.6 Other ratified international conventions from the field of landscape and cultural heritage protection, such as:**

1. Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Official Gazette of the SFRY – International Treaties, No 4/91 – Granada Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe);

2. European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, revised (the Malta Convention) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia – International Treaties, No 7/99) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 24/99);

3. European Landscape Convention (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia – IT, No 19/03).

### **1.4 Rationale of significance of the Programme for Protection and Development of the Škocjan Caves Park**

The National Assembly, acting on a proposal from the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, adopts the Programme for Protection and Development of the Škocjan Caves Park for the 2005–2009 period (hereinafter referred to as "the PPD ŠCP") pursuant to Article 13 of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 57/96) for a period of five years. The main objectives listed in the PPD ŠCP arise from Articles 16 and 17 of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act and Articles 3, 4 and 5 of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the Establishment of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency, Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 68/96), in which the following activities of the Park are stated:

1. preparation of the proposal for the programme for protection and development of the Park;
2. adoption of annual programmes for protection and development of the Škocjan Caves and performance of the tasks included in these programmes;
3. continuous monitoring and analysis of the state of natural resources and cultural heritage in the Park;
4. preparation of additional expert proposals for the protection and implementation of maintenance measures in co-operation with other professional organisations;
5. coordination of research studies related to the Park and organization of research work;
6. participation in international projects, presentations and professional Park research and monitoring of the implementation of accepted projects;
7. supervision of maintenance, restoration and protection of monuments and sites in the Park area;
8. management of real estate in accordance with the Establishment of Public Institute Act;
9. management of professional promotion of the Park and organization of educational training;
10. co-operation with the owners of individual monuments in the Park and provision of technical assistance and advice;
11. preparation and maintenance of paths and signs in the Park;
12. maintenance of the visitor infrastructure in the caves and performance of guiding services around the Park.

In addition to the abovementioned activities, the Public Service Agency within the framework of public authority also performs the following tasks:

1. manages the information centre;
2. collects and keeps documents and organizes museum collections;
3. exercises pre-emptive right of the local community and state in the purchasing of monuments and sites in the Park;

4. supervises the implementation of protection arrangements in the Park;
5. performs expert supervision over concession implementation.

By agreement and under expert supervision of the competent public service operator of cultural heritage protection, the Public Service Agency performs individual tasks of cultural heritage protection. The activity of the Park also relates to the provisions from other acts, especially the Nature Conservation Act and the Cultural Heritage Protection Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 7/99, 110/02 – Construction Act, 126/03 – Return of Unlawfully Removed Cultural Heritage Objects Act). In the Regional Development Programme for the South Primorska Region and the Kras Pilot Project (joint development programme of the Municipalities of Divača, Hrpelje-Kozina, Komen, Sežana and the karst part of the Municipalities of Koper and Miren-Kostanjevica – strategic part for the period 2001–2010), the ŠCP is defined as one of the four primary regions for the development of tourism in Kras.

## **2. LEGAL BASES OF THE PROGRAMME FOR PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **2.1 The Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act**

Article 13 of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act stipulates that the requisite elements of the PPD ŠCP are the following:

- overall assessment of the situation in the Park;
- protection and development objectives and methods of their realization;
- assessment of the situation in the area of influence of the Park and determination of measures for the improvement and prevention of adverse effects;
- methods of realization of the tax policy adjusted to the Park and other incentive policies, subsidization, payment of refunds and other incentive lending policy in accordance with the criteria and stipulated procedures;
- required funds and their sources;
- spatial definition of planned protection and development activity in the Park;
- determination of activities suitable for the Park and guidelines for their development.

The Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency adopts annual plans on the basis of the PPD ŠCP.

### **2.2 The Nature Conservation Act**

Articles 59, 60 and 61 of the Nature Conservation Act define the protected area management plan on the basis of which the management of the protected area is carried out.

Under the law, the protected area management plan includes the following essential components:

- the comprehensive assessment of the state of nature, the activities and the economic and social structure of the community;
- the assessment of the state of valuable natural features in the protected area;
- the assessment of conditions in the area of influence;
- the definition of the manner of fulfilling tasks concerning protection in the protected area and measures for mitigating and preventing adverse effects in the area of influence;
- the estimate of the probability of occurrence of natural and other accidents in the protected area and the definition of measures necessary to prevent natural accidents within and outside the protected area;
- the definition of detailed development orientations and the manner of their enforcement while primarily taking into account the traditional users and activities;
- the guidelines for integrating sectoral plans for the management of natural assets;
- the definition of protection orientations for sustainable development of activities;
- the definition of the methods of financing for achieving the protection and development purposes;
- the establishment and enforcement of protection regimes in the area;
- the nature protection requirements for spatial planning and the management plan implementation programme.

The PPD ŠCP also comprises the elements required under the Nature Conservation Act.

### **2.3 The Cultural Heritage Protection Act**

The Cultural Heritage Protection Act governs the system of protection and conservation of cultural heritage and cultural monuments as well as the responsibilities of the state and self-governing local communities in this area.

Paragraph 2 of Article 79 of the Cultural Heritage Protection Act stipulates that: "The cultural monuments proclaimed by the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 57/96) shall be deemed to be cultural monuments in accordance with this Act."

### **2.4 The Act Providing Funds for Certain Urgent Programmes of the Republic of Slovenia in Culture**

Provided in the Annex to the Act Providing Funds for Certain Urgent Programmes of the Republic of Slovenia in Culture (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 14/03 – official consolidated text) are the financial resources for the restoration of a technical monument in the Škocjan Caves Park for the period 2004–2008.

### **2.5 The Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act**

In accordance with the provisions of the **Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 93/2005), which defines the preparation of a regional development programme (hereinafter referred to as the "RDP"), the PPD ŠCP shall be duly included in the contents of the RDP for the South Primorska region. This programme is being prepared in co-operation with coastal and Karst municipalities and the Ilirska Bistrica Municipality.

### **2.6 Bases for the preparation of the programme for protection and development**

Various national and municipal spatial planning documents have been taken into account in the preparation of the PPD ŠCP.

#### **2.6.1 Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia**

The area of the Škocjan Caves Park is defined in the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia (Ordinance on Spatial Planning Strategy of Slovenia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 76/04) as one of the areas of national significance from both cultural and symbolic perspectives. Conservation and development of landscape areas with recognizable characteristics of national importance are especially ensured through adequate planning and programming. In spatial planning procedures, these landscape areas are considered to be enclosed landscape areas, in which spatial development that conserves their overall visibility is ensured.

#### **2.6.2 The Spatial Plan of the Divača Municipality**

Point 11.5 of Article 8 of the Ordinance amending the Ordinance on Spatial Components of the Long-Term Plan of the Sežana Municipality for the Area of the Divača Municipality for the Period 1986–2000 and the Social Plan of the Sežana Municipality for the Period 1986–1990 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 92/03) defines the ŠCP as a regional park.

The Ordinance amending the Ordinance on Spatial Management Conditions in the Sežana Municipality for the Area of the Divača Municipality (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 45/05), which defines the planning zones of the settlements in Betanja, Matavun and Škocjan, was adopted in 2004.

In 1998 and 1999, various assessments of the state in the Park and expert groundwork by competent institutions were prepared for the purposes of the PPD ŠCP.

### 2.6.3 Inventories

- Inventory of the open area of the Škocjan Caves Park: geology, pedology, hydrology and other factors in the area (Biotechnical Faculty – Ljubljana, Department of Agronomy, Centre for Pedology and Environmental Protection, 1998);
- Hydrogeological map of the Škocjan Caves area (Institute of Geology, Geotechnics and Geophysics, Ljubljana, 1998);
- Assessment of tourist infrastructure and speleological inventory of the Škocjan Caves (Karst Research Institute, ZRC SAZU, Postojna, 1998);
- Forest and forest areas in the Škocjan Caves Regional Park (Slovenian Forest Service, Sežana Regional Unit, 1998);
- study: Waste Water Collection and Treatment in the Škocjan Caves Park – Four Variants (Institute of water resources management, Ljubljana, 1998);
- Inventory of the state of electrical installations in the Škocjan Caves with the proposal for improvement and links with the Park's managing authority (TSE, Audio-video engineering, Ljubljana, 1998);
- research and seminar papers: Biotechnical faculty, Department of Agronomy:
- Possibilities of organization and development of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park, 1995;
- Inhabitants take the initiative, 1995;
- A story about three villages, 1996;
- Inclusion of local population in the active protection of natural and cultural heritage, 1996;
- Definition of economic production of the Škocjan Caves Park, 1998;
- Inventory of cultural and natural heritage for the Škocjan Caves Park area (Institute for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage Gorica, Nova Gorica, 1997);
- development and research paper: Architectural potential of structural heritage in the Škocjan Caves Regional Park (Faculty of Architecture, Ljubljana, 1998);
- Archaeological sites in the Škocjan Caves Park (Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology, Ljubljana, 1999);
- Interviews with Park inhabitants (The Škocjan Caves Park, Škocjan, 1997);
- The history of research and tourist visits in the Škocjan Caves (prepared by Matjaž Puc, 1999);
- Assessment of the actual state of tourist infrastructure in the Škocjan Caves prior to the take-over of caves from the company HTG, d.d., Sežana, with proposed measures (bridges, fences, paths, electrical installations, illumination of tourist paths, elevator, overhanging walls, sanitary conveniences; prepared by various expert institutions and the Škocjan Caves Park, 1998);
- The actual state of electricity lines and devices and low-tension network in the Park (Elektro Primorska, BU Sežana, 1997);
- The actual state of lines and water supply network in the Park (Kraški vodovod Sežana, 1997);
- The actual state of lines and telephone network in the Park (Telekom Slovenije, BU Koper, Sežana branch office, 1997);
- Actual locations, types and capacity of cesspits in Škocjan, Betanja and Matavun (the Škocjan Caves Park, 1997);
- Locations of containers for municipal waste in the Park (the Škocjan Caves Park, 1997);
- The flora, fauna and vegetation in the Škocjan Caves Regional Park (Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, ZRC SAZU, 2002);
- Habitat type mapping (Flora and Fauna Mapping Centre, 2004).

### 2.6.4 Expert groundwork

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (hereinafter referred to as “the MESP”), Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for the Protection of Nature, Ljubljana:

- Register of valuable natural features in the Škocjan Caves Park and in its proximity; Expert bases for the PPD (Ljubljana, 2000);
- Nature protection policies for activities in the Škocjan Caves Park area (Ljubljana, 2000);

Ministry of Culture, Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, in co-operation with the Institute for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage Gorica, Nova Gorica:

- Baselines for cultural heritage protection within the framework of the PPD preparation with detailed data on cultural monuments and cultural heritage with valuation (Ljubljana, 2000);

## **2.6.5 Work of the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana**

Five notebooks with substantial cartographical material (26) were prepared for the PPD, namely:

- phase 1, March 1999;
- 2nd work draft, January 1999;
- 3rd work draft, March 1999;
- 4th work draft, January 2000;
- 5th draft (material for the Scientific Council and the Council of the Agency), May 2000.

## **3. COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE PROTECTED AREA**

### **3.1 General assessment**

The protected area of the Škocjan Regional Park covers 413 hectares and is situated entirely in the Divača Municipality. It includes the Reka River gorge just before the sink into the Škocjan Caves, the sink part with Velika and Mala dolina, the surface area above the entire cave system and the two sets of sink holes in the southern and northern parts. There are three villages situated in the protected area of ŠRP, Matavun, Škocjan and Betanja with a total of 68 inhabitants. Numerous natural and cultural monuments inside the Park are additionally protected.

The state of valuable natural features and cultural heritage was evaluated on the basis of inventories prepared by qualified institutions, expert groundwork of competent administrations, data gathered by employees of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency and field inspections.

Agricultural production takes place on approximately one third of the area. Forests are mainly natural and well-preserved; they have a slightly greater share of young trees and less growing stock than the Slovenian average. Forest management is close to nature.

Geomorphological valuable natural features, which include collapse dolines, sink holes, gorges and caves, are mostly left to natural processes. However, where tourists paths were at risk due to falling stones or natural denudation, some work was carried out in order to protect visitors and employees in the Park (protection nets in Velika dolina), prevent slips underground and uncontrolled visits and plundering of archaeological heritage (closure of Velika jama at Prevala and Pruker).

Valuable natural geologic features have been left to natural processes and are not endangered.

Valuable natural hydrologic features comprise the Reka River and its tributaries. Water quality greatly fluctuated. The Reka River experienced the most changes, especially in relation to the intensity of production in Ilirska Bistrica which still remains its greatest polluter.

Valuable natural botanical features, in accordance with the inventory prepared for the inclusion on UNESCO's list of natural and cultural world heritage sites, have not changed significantly and are not endangered. The preparation projects for the flora and fauna inventory in the Park and habitat mapping in the Park area and Mejame determined that the situation is favourable. Such a state has to be maintained in the future and demonstrated with new inventories.

Inventories of valuable zoological natural features have been compiled. The area holds a number of plants and wild animals, including endangered and rare species whose migratory routes run through the area.

Valuable natural dendrological and designed features are not especially defined in the Park.

Cultural heritage. In the framework of the preparation of the programme of protection and development and in co-operation with the Institute for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage Nova Gorica, the Ministry of Culture prepared the Baselines for cultural heritage protection in 2000. These also included cultural heritage valuation with guidelines for protection, the form for assessment of structural heritage endangerment and a proposal for the act amending the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act.

Infrastructural connections and Park infrastructure. The Park can be reached by the regional road Divača–Ribnica; those who arrive to Divača by train can follow the marked footpath leading from the railway station to the Information Centre in Matavun. The Park offers numerous possibilities for walks along well-maintained footpaths and trails and cycling trails. Organized guided tours around the caves are organized every day. People with disabilities can reach the viewpoint. There is a parking area for cars and buses next to the Information Centre. Information panels can be found along the most important paths while individual natural sites and cultural monuments have not been marked yet and there are no information signs next to them. The Škocjan Caves tourist infrastructure has been judged as very bad and dangerous, but part of it was restored and reconstructed between 1999 and 2001,

therefore the state of paths, fences and electrical installations is now satisfactory. In 2002, the Škocjan Education Trail was built around Velika and Mala dolina, incorporating also the villages of Betanja, Škocjan and Matavun. The trail begins and ends in front of the Information Centre in Matavun and is about two kilometres long. It comprises 24 points of interest which provide various descriptions of the natural and cultural features along it.

Tourist opportunities of the Škocjan Caves Park. By far the most important feature in the varied Park offer is the cave system itself. It is renowned for its underground canyon and the fact that it is inscribed on UNESCO's list of natural and cultural world heritage sites. The growth trend in the number of visitors is increasing from year to year. Since the take-over of the caves in 1999 when the number of visitors amounted to approximately 45,000, the number of visitors has increased to a good 70,000, foreign tourists being the most frequent (about 80 %) while the share of Slovenian guests is on the decrease. In addition to the caves and in the framework of additional tourist opportunities, museum exhibitions in the restored Jurjev and J'kopin barns are gaining in importance. In 2003, the Škocjan Education Trail was completed which enriched the programme for visitors as the trail now incorporates a much wider area, including the villages of Betanja, Škocjan and Matavun. The renovated house number 3 in Škocjan has been foreseen for the location of a permanent biological, geological and archaeological exhibition.

The socio-economic assessment of the situation shows 69 permanent residents who live in three villages in the Park, namely 2 in Škocjan, 10 in Betanja and 57 in Matavun. The age structure is satisfactory, except in Škocjan where only two elderly inhabitants live. Among those employed, the majority works in the nearby Divača, while three locals are employed in the Park. There are not any pure agricultural households in the Park anymore except a few old ones which supplement their income with horticulture. At the bottom of some collapse dolines there are smaller cultivated fields. The majority of young people attend secondary schools and universities. Since the establishment of the Park, the interest for additional tourist activities has increased.

Agriculture and forestry. 72 % of the Park is forest. Coppice forest prevails and there are many areas overgrown by forest. Forest management is in line with the forest management plans which are harmonized with expert services of the ŠCP. Forests are low-productive, multi-functional (productive, social and ecological functions) and are not economically interesting. The largest part of agricultural and forest area is privately owned.

Co-operation with Park inhabitants is exemplary and is reflected at all levels of social life, especially as regards the joint protection of natural and cultural heritage, joint work activities related to the maintenance and reconstruction of Park infrastructure, the mowing and bringing in of hay and the organization of cultural landscape. Of particular significance to the inhabitants is the assistance provided by the ŠCP regarding the preparation of the necessary documentation related to the activities which affect the environment in the protected area of the Park, joint commemoration of national holidays and local customs and thus the integration of local inhabitants in permanent and periodic employment opportunities.

The ŠCP promotes and in agreement with the MESP financially supports the inhabitants in the Park who renovate their homesteads under the expert supervision of competent services. Part of renovated homesteads will be used for tourist and catering activities, thus providing the first accommodation facilities in the Park (16 beds have been foreseen for 2005). The visitors will thus have the opportunity of staying in the Park more days which will enable the local inhabitants to earn additional income. The Škocjan Tourist Organization is very active in this respect, organizing on a yearly basis in April the traditional walking expedition along the Reka River sink hole and the festival of local amateur theatre groups which starts with the performance of choirs on Midsummer Night. The ŠCP participates in such activities both in the preparation and implementation phases.

### **3.2 Hazard assessment**

Nature and environmental protection. Individual structures and areas of valuable natural features are at risk due to waste from the past (particularly caves and sink holes) and unorganized visits. There still exist illegal waste dumps which the ŠCP continuously remediates with the help of the local inhabitants and local associations. Waste water collection and treatment in the villages in the Park is still not organized but the solution to this problem has been envisaged for the near future in co-operation with the Divača Municipality. The ŠCP obtained the conceptual design from the expert institution VGI Ljubljana for all three settlements in the Park: Matavun, Škocjan and Betanja. Households have mostly single and double chamber septic systems and only a few triple chamber septic systems.

Dangerous substances and petroleum derivatives were transported through the protected area in the past but this was forbidden following the intervention by the ŠCP. The problem of illegal camping can sometimes be encountered in the Park during summer months but the Park's supervisory service always reacts in a timely manner to such occurrences. Also disturbing is the noise resulting from plane and helicopter overflights with regard to which the ŠCP has warned the air navigation unit of the Slovenian armed forces and the police, thus significantly mitigating the problem of noise.

As the danger of plundering the cultural and natural heritage (archaeological finds, bird populations...) still exists, the most important structures in the ŠCP were closed off and are electronically monitored and protected; we have also educated the voluntary nature protection supervisors in the ŠCP who monitor the situation in the field on a daily basis.

Natural disasters. Assessment of hazard due to natural disasters which are largely a consequence of long-term rainy weather indicates the risk of floods and high water. Due to frost and erosion, there are stones falling and sliding in caves and collapse dolines, which has ruined part of tourist paths, fences and bridges in the Mahorčič and Marinič caves and Mala dolina and increases the risk for visitors.

Cultural heritage. The state of cultural monuments and cultural heritage is solid even though certain buildings are still dilapidating or have been abandoned or damaged. One of the key reasons for dilapidation is the fact that many owners live abroad and that they are not interested in the renovation of homesteads.

## **4. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREA OF INFLUENCE**

### **4.1 General assessment**

The area of influence of the ŠCP covers about 45,000 hectares and comprises the entire Reka River watershed. It is located in the territory of five municipalities: Divača, Hrpelje-Kozina, Ilirska Bistrica, Pivka and Postojna. It covers the southern part of the Snežnik mountain chain to the border with the Republic of Croatia, the north-eastern Brkini area, the southern part of Vremščica, the Košanska Valley, the Slavinska corrosion plain and the Sajevška field. It comprises 92 settlements, the largest of which is Ilirska Bistrica with 4,869 inhabitants.

The assessment is based on the same grounds as the assessment of the state in the Park. The environment and valuable natural features are well-preserved and the cultural landscape of the area of influence, which has been defined as the Reka River watershed, is well-maintained. Agricultural production takes place on approximately one third of the area, mainly in the flysch Brkini area and the Reka River valley. Preserved clean water tributaries flow into the Reka River from this area. Forests are mainly natural and well-preserved; they have a slightly greater share of young trees and slightly less growing stock than the Slovenian average. Forest management is close to nature. The area holds a number of plants and wild animals, including endangered and rare species whose migratory routes run through the area. Animal species are gradually returning to water courses but remain endangered due to periodical contaminations.

For the purpose of monitoring the environmental situation, data related to air and water are periodically collected; it would be useful to perform continuous monitoring of the environmental situation and the state of rare plant species and wild animals.

The Inspectorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia supervises the enforcement of rules and administrative provisions. The Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Culture and the Public Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia with its Nova Gorica Regional Office carry out administrative and professional tasks pertaining to the field of natural and cultural heritage within their spheres of competence. The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, Nova Gorica Regional Office, researches, documents and evaluates natural and cultural heritage in the ŠCP and its area of influence.

A large part of the area of influence is included in the Natura 2000 ecological network.

### **4.2 Hazard assessment in the area of influence**

Water pollution. The hazard results from water pollution sources, the state of water and interventions in the water regime. Actual sources of pollution include: industry, craft trade, agriculture, transport and the transit of petroleum derivatives from the refinery in Reka to interior Slovenia. There are only

few organized individual septic systems in the area of influence of the Park. In 2003, the town of Ilirska Bistrica obtained a purification plant for 10,000 units, to which the neighbouring villages will be connected in future years. For the purpose of the continuous monitoring of the environmental situation it is necessary that the environmental inspection service of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning pays more attention to this area. Fishermen, foresters, hunters, speleologists and other nature protection activists who are directly connected with the ŠCP play an important part in the protection of waters.

Numerous studies conducted by the Karst Research Institute SAZU from Postojna and the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering, Department of Hydrology, likewise indicate underground pollution by household and industry discharges.

In the territory of the former Trnovo barracks underground concrete reservoirs were discovered a few years ago which contained waste motor oil and were subsequently emptied. There may still exist other undiscovered and not recorded underground concrete reservoirs. The shooting ground for clay pigeon shooting at Črne njive above Ilirska Bistrica should be organized according to the criteria for these kinds of outdoor shooting grounds.

Agriculture contaminates the water and the underground with waste waters from agricultural households and farms, pesticides and fertilizers. Potential sources of pollution comprise traffic accidents and leakage from trucks transporting petroleum derivatives and dangerous substances. The washing of tankers by private transporters for the purpose of transporting petroleum derivatives or dangerous substances is in the process of organization on private parking areas while the company TIB Transport Ilirska Bistrica has obtained an up-to-date purification plant. The company also has a trained expert group of employees with the equipment for urgent interventions in the event of leakage of dangerous substances on land. Despite the efforts of TIB Transport, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the management of the Škocjan Caves Park, the organization of the elimination and removal of petroleum derivatives from the Reka River water surface for cases of major leakages from the reservoirs or traffic accidents with tankers close to or in the Reka River river bed. In such events it can be expected that almost the entire leaked quantity will flow into the Škocjan Caves and cause disastrous pollution of the caves and karst underground water accumulations.

The water quality in the Reka River, especially in the stream under Ilirska Bistrica, improved considerably after 1991, mainly due to the bankruptcy of the company TOK (Organic acid factory) in Ilirska Bistrica as there are no more dangerous emissions from this factory.

The water regime is affected by the Klivnik and Mol barrages with the total water quantity of about 3.5 million cubic metres, intended for increasing the water level of the Reka River in the event of low flow volumes and ensuring a flow volume which satisfies the ecological minimum. At the same time the two barrages hold great quantities of high precipitation waters, thus preventing major floods in Ilirska Bistrica.

The construction of the barrage on the Padež River, the tributary of the Reka River, has been foreseen for the purpose of organizing the water supply of the Slovenian Istria and karst hinterland region. In the framework of this project the ŠCP has provided guidelines which emphasize the importance of the Škocjan Caves as a UNESCO world heritage site and an internationally important underground wetland in the framework of the Ramsar Convention. This project will probably endanger the water regime and consequently the natural heritage, therefore it is necessary to ensure constantly sufficient water quantity in the Reka River for maintaining the biological minimum and unchanged situation in the Škocjan caves prior to the construction of the Padež barrage. The Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (EARS) renovated the water gauge station at Cerkevnikov mlin for the purpose of monitoring the water situation in the Reka River and a new water gauge station has been foreseen ahead of the Reka River sink hole into the Škocjan Caves.

Waste dumps. There are numerous unorganized waste dumps for municipal waste in the area of influence. The Ilirska Bistrica Municipality (two thirds of its area are in the area of influence of the Park) has recorded over one hundred illegal waste dumps. Within the framework of the municipal plan, eight reorganizations of illegal waste dumps are carried out per year and this has been going on for five years. The most problematic industrial waste dump (Organic acid factory which was closed down at the end of the 1980s) is the area of Globovnik, which is included in the phase of rehabilitation project preparation within the framework of the national project for the elimination of old burdens.

A collection centre for separate waste collection should be established in the Ilirska Bistrica Municipality in the next three years. The preparations for the project are under way. The installation of 28 recycling station collection points has been foreseen for the first phase.

Air pollution. It is considerable mostly because of the industry in Ilirska Bistrica which also influences water pollution. Continuous measurements of air emissions are carried out in the Lesonit factory.

## 5. OPERATION OF THE ŠKOCJAN CAVES PARK PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCY, SLOVENIA

### 5.1 Current situation

#### 5.1.1 Work description

The Public Service Agency manages the Park within the framework of public service which is guaranteed and financed in part by the founder. Within the framework of public service and in compliance with the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act and the Decision on the Establishment of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency, Slovenia, the Agency performs several activities, for instance it supervises the maintenance, reconstruction and protection of monuments and sites in the area of the Park; continually monitors and analyzes the status of natural resources and cultural heritage in the Park; coordinates research studies related to the Park and organizes research work; participates in international projects; takes care of the professional promotion of the Park and organizes educational training; prepares and maintains paths and signs in the Park; cooperates with the owners of individual monuments in the Park and offers them technical assistance and advice; maintains the visitor infrastructure in the caves and performs guiding services around the Park; and manages the Information Centre.

In 1999, the Agency took over the management of the entire cave system and related infrastructure which also comprises a shop selling foodstuffs and a catering establishment from the former manager of the Škocjan Caves. As the Agency was not interested in managing the shop and the catering establishment, it has rented out the two facilities. In recent years, the Agency has invested in infrastructure renovation and placed special emphasis on the promotion of the Škocjan Caves in Slovenia and abroad. This has resulted in the increasing number of visitors each year and greater inflow of funds from administration activities.

In addition to visits to the Škocjan Caves, the Agency has enriched the Park's tourist opportunities with ethnological, archaeological and karstological exhibitions in two renovated barns in Škocjan and the Škocjan Education Trail.

#### 5.1.2 Systematization

Upon the establishment of the Agency in 1997, there were 4 employees, but following the take-over of the Škocjan Caves from the former managing authority in 1999, the scale of the work increased and a new systematization was adopted in accordance with which the Agency employed 16 workers. Following the modification to the systematization performed in 2005, eighteen out of nineteen systematized workplaces have been filled.

There are 11 employees in the management authority of the Škocjan Caves Park, *the director of the Public Service Agency, 5 senior advisers of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, a business secretary, a book-keeper – accountant and a caretaker – procurer.*

The guiding service employs 7 nature protection supervisors – guides; in addition to nature protection supervision and guiding tours around the cave, Park and museum collections, their tasks also include cash-desk management, sale of souvenirs, elevator maintenance and occupational safety.

As the activity of the Public Service Agency is expanding from year to year, additional guides have been employed for a period of six months during the tourist season since 2003.

Educational structure of employees:

<b>Education:</b>	<b>Number of permanently employed:</b>	<b>Number of fixed-term employees:</b>	<b>Total number of employees:</b>
University	8	1	<b>9</b>
Vocational college	1		<b>1</b>
Secondary school	7	7	<b>14</b>
Qualified workers	3		<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>

For the purpose of the smooth course of activities of the ŠCP and in line with the extension of activities and the increased number of visitors to the Škocjan caves and the Park, the employment of additional staff has been planned for subsequent periods.

## 5.2 Future situation

### 5.2.1 Employment dynamics in the ŠCP for the period 2006–2010

Permanently employed:

Employees /Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Director	1	1	1	1	1
MESP Senior adviser in the spatial planning service	1	1	1	1	1
MESP Senior adviser in the nature protection supervisory service	1	1	1	1	1
MESP Senior adviser in the financial-accounting and general affairs service	1	1	1	1	1
MESP Senior adviser in the research and development service	2	1	1	1	1
MESP Senior adviser in the visit organization and marketing service	1	1	1	2	2
MESP Adviser - geographer	1	1	1	1	1
MESP Adviser - biologist – ecologist	1	1	1	1	1
Business secretary	1	1	1	1	1
Bookkeeper - accountant	1	1	1	1	1
Supervisor in the protected area – cashier	1	1	1	1	1
Supervisor in the protected area – deputy cashier	1	1	1	1	1
Supervisor in the protected area – authorized for occupational safety	1	1	1	1	1
Supervisor in the protected area – elevator maintainer	1	1	1	1	1
Supervisor in the protected area – souvenir vendor	1	2	2	2	2
Supervisor in the protected area – guide	2	2	2	2	2
Caretaker – procurer	1	1	1	1	1
Archaeologist – ethnologist	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Total number of employees</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>

Number of fixed-term employees during the tourist season:

Employees /Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Supervisors in the protected area	5	5	5	5	6
<b>Total number of fixed-term employees</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

Fixed-term employees – project employment:

Employees /Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
International projects	2	2	1	2	2
Other projects			1	1	1
<b>Total number of fixed-term employees – project employment</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

During the summer season, three to five students are employed through the student employment centre for the purposes of guiding tours around the Škocjan Caves, the education trail and museum collections.

## **6. OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES**

Objectives are divided into four groups (6.1, 6.2, 6.3 ...), namely protection objectives, development objectives, wider objectives and education objectives, the latter being particularly emphasised. The groups are divided according to fields (6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3 ...) which have sub-objectives (6.1.1.1, 6.1.1.2, 6.1.1.3 ...). Each sub-objective has foreseen measures by means of which it is realized. Protection objectives include the objectives for the conservation of valuable natural features, nature, environment, cultural monuments and cultural heritage. Development objectives comprise the objectives for the development of activities for the purposes of local inhabitants, activities related to the Park and objectives related to the safety of visitors and employees. Wider objectives include the development of activities in the area of influence of the Park, while monitoring and education objectives are treated separately due to their significance and complexity.

The implementation of the abovementioned objectives and measures, foreseen in the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act, and other regulations and international conventions includes the costs of administrative, financial, research and other activities in line with the activities of the Park, laid down in the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act, the adopted and confirmed systematization of workplaces and the requirements of international conventions.

### **6.1 Objectives for participation in accordance with international conventions, programmes, organizations and other institutions**

#### ***6.1.1 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage***

##### **MEASURES:**

- preparation of reports on the implementation of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage – UNESCO in co-operation with the MESP and the Ministry of Culture;
- promotion of the Škocjan Caves as a natural world heritage site;
- organization of thematic courses;
- information of the public through professional and popular publications and the media about measures relating to the implementation of provisions from this Convention;
- celebration of the anniversary of the inclusion of the Škocjan Caves on UNESCO's list of natural and cultural world heritage sites;
- publication of thematic publications;
- publication of folded brochures.

#### ***6.1.2 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the Ramsar Convention***

##### **MEASURES:**

- monitoring of the status and communication to the Ramsar Expert Committee about state conservation and changes, transmission of data into the international database of scientific data;
- promotion of the Škocjan Caves as the underground wetland;
- implementation of projects in the framework of the Ramsar Convention;
- integration in the national association of supervisors and international organization of nature protection supervisors;
- organization of thematic courses;
- information of the public through professional and popular publications and the media about measures relating to the implementation of provisions from this Convention;
- celebration of the anniversary of the inclusion of the Škocjan Caves in the Ramsar Directory of Wetlands of International Importance;
- publication of folded brochures;

- publication of thematic publications;
- participation at international events (workshops, conferences, symposiums...).

### **6.1.3 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the MAB Programme**

#### MEASURES:

- determination of human influence on the natural environment;
- building awareness and education of the public by means of thematic lectures, workshops, exhibitions, seminars, publications, posters and excursions;
- monitoring in the cave, the Reka River and on the surface;
- preparation of programmes and agreements for the coordination and integration of the MAB programme in strategic municipal, regional and national documents;
- promotion of the Škocjan Caves Park as a biosphere reserve;
- celebration of the anniversary of the inclusion of the Škocjan Caves Park in the MAB programme.
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### **6.1.4 Operation in accordance with the project Natura 2000**

#### MEASURES:

- co-operation with the MESP in activities related to Natura 2000;
- monitoring of rare and endangered species and habitats in the protected area of the ŠCP, listed in European directives;
- ensuring favourable states for the conservation of rare and endangered species and habitats in the protected area of the ŠCP.

### **6.1.5 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas**

#### MEASURES:

- co-operation in the Alpine Network of Protected Areas in the Alpencom project;
- participation in various workshops, seminars, conferences, consultations etc.;
- protection of natural and cultural heritage in the Alpine region.

### **6.1.6 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the Europarc Organization**

#### MEASURES:

- promotion preparation and participation of the ŠCP at the Europarc conference;
- participation in thematic workshops and seminars.

### **6.1.7 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the ISCA Organization**

#### MEASURES:

- participation at international conferences and congresses;
- co-operation and integration with other tourist caves in the world.

## **6.2 Protection objectives**

Protection objectives cover the areas of nature protection, cultural landscape conservation and cultural monument management. Nature protection objectives may be defined as passive objectives which comprise the maintenance of the existing state. The objectives of environmental protection, conservation of cultural landscape and conservation of some plant and animal species and cultural monuments are considered to be active objectives. They comprise: agriculture, forestry and other activities which are the maintainers of cultural landscape and areas of structural and cultural monuments.

### **6.2.1 Objectives for the conservation of outstanding geomorphological, geological and**

## ***hydrological natural features***

### ***6.2.1.1 Conservation of exceptional surface and underground Karst phenomena, especially caves, abysses and collapse dolines***

#### **MEASURES:**

- continuous supervision and guided tours around the Park;
- protection and supervision of walls - Sokolak, Lisična, the cliff above Sapendol and the walls in the Reka River gorge with botanical natural features;
- continuous supervision and record keeping of visits to the caves which are closed to the public;
- monitoring of the state of natural processes in caves, collapse dolines and surface karst phenomena (record keeping of the state, crack shifts, collapses, scree sliding, fallen trees...);
- physical protection of the most endangered natural features and adequate marking;
- rehabilitation and elimination of favourable conditions for algal and moss growth on stalactite formations;
- treatment of waste from caves, collapse dolines and abysses;
- restoration and organization of adequate paths for visits – the Mahorčič and other caves (studies, projects and the beginning of stage restoration);
- awareness raising on the importance of valuable natural features inscribed on UNESCO's list, MAB, Ramsar and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas.

### ***6.2.1.2 Conservation of hydrological and hydrogeomorphological characteristics of the riverbed and banks of the Reka River***

#### **MEASURES:**

- continuous supervision in the Park and in the area of influence;
- participation in decision-making processes concerning activities which affect the environment in the Reka River riverbed or along its banks (parking areas, dams, construction activities...);
- conservation of vegetation on the banks and natural features of the Reka River riverbed along the entire stream;
- participation in ecological research and analyses and determination of the potential impact of the foreseen barrage construction in the Reka River watershed;
- participation in the determination of possible negative impacts of the potential barrage and other indirect interventions in the Škocjan Caves system;
- participation in the determination of conditions and other necessary factors which would eliminate or reduce negative impacts due to planned interventions;
- public awareness building on the significance of hydrological and hydrogeomorphological characteristics of the stream and banks for sustainable life.

### ***6.2.1.3 Enlargement of the protected area of the Park to the contact point with flysch (the Mejame area)***

#### **MEASURES:**

- valorization of the area and expert groundwork for the enlargement of the Park in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Council of the Park and the 3rd Ramsar conference in Bled;
- supervision and monitoring of the state of valuable natural features in the enlargement area;
- activities related to the integration of Park inhabitants (participation in the candidacy) and the improvement of situation (cleaning of illegal waste dumps, rehabilitation of ponds);
- indirect protection with building awareness of inhabitants concerning the ecology of animal and plant species and habitats;
- integration of local inhabitants in the voluntary natural protection and supervision service of the Park;
- activities for the notification of candidacy for the enlargement of the Park with UNESCO.

### ***6.2.1.4 Improvement of water quality in the Reka River and its tributaries***

**MEASURES:**

- partnership co-operation in international and national projects for the conservation and improvement of the Reka River state in terms of quality (purification plants, washing of tanks, agriculture, dumping areas);
- co-operation with the Roads Directorate of the Republic of Slovenia with proposals for the improvement of traffic safety on those roads where accidents and leakages of dangerous and poisonous substances into the Reka River could occur;
- expert co-operation with companies which have qualified intervention groups for the mitigation of the consequences of disastrous accidents on the Reka River;
- participation in the purchase and installation of two Hidropak suction devices for eliminating oil slicks from the Reka River surface level;
- co-operation with fishermen in the identification of pollutants and their notification to inspection services;
- participation in the preparation of project documentation for the completion of urban waste water collection and treatment in the villages in the Park and its proximity and procurement of appropriate authorizations;
- organization of adequate parking areas in the Park;
- organization of periodical cleaning campaigns of the Reka River riverbed and banks.

***6.2.1.5 Limitation and prevention or reduction of all other kinds of pollution***

**MEASURES:**

- continuous supervision and monitoring;
- continuation of the rehabilitation of illegal waste dumps;
- prevention of inappropriate activities and structures in the area of influence of the Park (visual pollution, noise pollution, smell...);
- monitoring and supervision of overflights of powered airplanes, helicopters and powered hang gliders over the Park area and proposals for action to competent authorities;
- in co-operation with the Divača Municipality, identification of suitable locations for waste disposal sites for building material and material from land excavations;
- removal of rubbish and coins from the cave.

***6.2.1.6 Harmonization and organization of the research of natural characteristics in the Park area***

**MEASURES:**

- speleological, karstological and hydrological research;
- organization and participation in the research of other activities in the Park area;
- detection and monitoring of breathing holes above the cave;
- monitoring and co-financing of research activities – possibility of linking the Škocjan Caves with the Kačna cave;
- continuation of animal migratory routes study;
- continuation of the land survey project for the entire Škocjan Caves system (the Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU);
- participation at various congresses, symposia, conferences, workshops in Slovenia and abroad and provision of help to different organisations and scientists who visit the Park.

***6.2.2 Objectives for the conservation of rare, endangered, endemic and other plant and animal species and their habitats***

***6.2.2.1 Conservation of ecosystems and the variety of species***

**MEASURES:**

- building awareness of the inhabitants and visitors about the ecology of animal and plant species and conservation of their habitats;
- conservation of natural entrances, passages and vegetation at the entrances to the caves and abysses;

- assessment of the load-bearing capacity of the caves for the greatest possible number of visitors that individual parts of the Škocjan Caves can bear without adverse effects on the environment (on a daily, monthly, seasonal, yearly basis);
- prevention of the spreading of agricultural and other activities to the sites of rare, endangered or endemic plant species unless this requires landscape maintenance;
- provision of habitat mapping study;
- active integration in forestry economic plans;
- participation in the planning of the regulation of fauna with hunting and fishing in the Park;
- cleaning of ponds in Škocjan, Matavun and Betanja;
- purchase of plots in the area of natural monuments and other areas;
- purchase and organization of the river bank in the area of influence (at Jasen) where bee-eaters nest.

#### ***6.2.2.2 Promotion of further biospeleological research***

##### **MEASURES:**

- provision of the study on detailed cave flora and fauna inventory for management purposes.

#### ***6.2.3 Conservation of paleontological sites and archaeological heritage***

##### ***6.2.3.1 Protection and organization of management of archaeological and paleontological sites***

##### **MEASURES:**

- closure of entrances to the caves which have archaeological importance and establishment of surveillance over them;
- organization of paleontological research in the Škocjan Caves system.

##### ***6.2.3.2 Compliance with the decision on prior and protective archaeological research in relation to future land interventions in the area of proclaimed monuments and the simultaneous examination of archaeological potential in other land works***

##### **MEASURES:**

- ensuring prior non-destructive research and protective archaeological research in land interventions.

#### ***6.2.4 Objectives for the conservation of ethnological heritage, architectural characteristics and cultural landscape***

##### ***6.2.4.1 Prevention of further deterioration of structural monuments and their gradual restoration and revitalization***

##### **MEASURES:**

- purchase of the most important cultural monuments in Škocjan and Matavun for promotion and other activities of the Park;
- restoration of the most important cultural monuments in Škocjan and Matavun for promotion and other activities of the Park;
- preparation of plans for the restoration of both villages in terms of integral conservation of cultural heritage.

##### ***6.2.4.2 Protection of cultural monuments***

##### **MEASURES:**

- final organization of the natural science centre (Škocjan 3) in the immediate vicinity of the Park's managing authority for educational, monitoring and analytical purposes and for the

presentation of the biological, geological and archaeological collection pertaining to the area of the ŠCP and Karst;

- updating of museum collections at the J'kopin in Jurjev barns;
- completion and organization of the educational beehive;
- organization of the surroundings of the square in the centre of Matavun (continuation of the wall restoration and the arrangement of green areas);
- restoration of village wells;
- restoration of the old signpost near Matavun.

#### **6.2.4.3 Restoration of damaged and demolished dry walls and old paths in the Škocjan Caves system**

MEASURES:

- rehabilitation of damaged and demolished walls;
- restoration of old tourist and climbing paths in the Škocjan Caves system (Hanke's channel,...).

#### **6.2.4.4 Conservation of cultural landscape and prevention of overgrowth**

MEASURES:

- cleaning of overgrown paths and areas;
- co-operation with the Agricultural Extension Service with regard to the exchange of information and the encouragement of local inhabitants to maintain the cultural landscape through adequate lectures;
- organization of expert consultations and demonstrations of cultural landscape care;
- professional training of local inhabitants for quality horticulture development (significance of old fruit varieties, fruit products...).

#### **6.2.4.5 Restoration of technical heritage (dams, mills, walls and millraces ahead of the Reka River sink hole)**

MEASURES:

- participation in the completion of the reconstruction of the dam and buildings in Malni;
- reorganization of the millrace and restoration of the mill in Uken.

### **6. 3 Development objectives**

Development objectives define the activities which will provide the basis for the development of the Park. The most important of these are an adequate - sustainable tourist activity and recreation or its forms (individual, organized), kinds (types of recreation) and locations. The strategy includes access to individual areas and other infrastructure requirements such as parking spaces, rest areas and various kinds of services. In this connection, special consideration should be given to the directing of traffic, provision of public means of transport and promotion of their use. Development will be possible on the basis of accommodation facilities for visitors and the provision of information and educational contents (information centre, educational role of the Agency and Park, study workshops etc.). An important part in such development strategy in the Park is the membership in various conventions under UNESCO's patronage and adherence to their objectives (World Cultural and Natural Heritage, wetlands, MAB and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas).

Objectives for village development are based on the establishment and maintenance of sustainable economic, social and cultural development, the maintenance of agricultural activity within the Park and the promotion of investments in the expansion of tourist opportunities in villages. The strategy is based on development which will not be contrary to protection and recreation objectives in the Park and which will satisfy social, cultural and economic needs of local inhabitants. The locals will thus obtain new opportunities for development and employment and conditions for improved quality of life and work.

### **6.3.1 Objectives for the establishment of tourist opportunities and recreational offer, promotion of tourist development**

#### **6.3.1.1 Ensuring better visibility of the Škocjan Caves Park in Slovenia and abroad**

##### MEASURES:

- construction and setting-up of information panels and markings in accordance with the corporate image of the Škocjan Caves Park;
- formulation of project documentation for individual concluded phases of the reorganization and modernization of the Information Centre in Matavun;
- implementation of individual phases of reorganization and modernization of the Information Centre (reorganization of sanitary conveniences, cash-desk area, souvenir shop, multipurpose room for guides, multimedia hall...);
- external organization of the Information Centre;
- design and publication of new thematic publications of the Škocjan Caves Park;
- co-operation with Lipica Stud Farm, the village of Štanjel and other driving forces of the Karst tourist development on both sides of the border or independent participation at European and world tourism fairs and other forms of promotion;
- participation at various congresses, symposiums, conferences, workshops in Slovenia and abroad;
- participation in the promotion of the sphere of influence with the main aim of achieving greater visibility and faster development, especially with the municipalities that have a large part of their area in the sphere of influence of the ŠCP.

#### **6.3.1.2 Expansion and enrichment of tourist opportunities in the Park**

##### MEASURES:

- creation of new kinds of tourist offer of the Škocjan Caves Park;
- participation in the preparation of an integrated tourist offer of the Classical Karst in the framework of the STO programmes;
- participation in the preparation of integrated tourism offer including the most important tourist programmes and centres;
- examination of possibilities for speleotherapy in the Škocjan Caves;
- integration of bus companies and Slovenian railways into the tourist offer of the Škocjan Caves Park;
- co-financing of the integration of the Škocjan Caves Park offer in the offer of other tourist locations and areas in Slovenia and abroad;
- joint promotion campaigns with other protected areas (parks – information panels, brochures);
- participation in various projects with other protected areas concerning education trails, trekking paths, protection programmes (Interreg III A, B, C and other).

#### **6.3.1.3 Ensuring greatest possible safety for visitors and employees in the Park**

##### MEASURES:

- organization and maintenance of infrastructure in the Škocjan Caves system (illumination, walkways, fences, nets, retaining walls, bridges, telephony, water supply, shed in front of the entrance in Globočak, videosurveillance...);
- new walkway sections intended for people with disabilities;
- additional protection of the passage over the regional road in Matavun with signalization or an overpass;
- reconstruction of retaining walls alongside the elevator route and stations;
- modernization or replacement of the elevator in Velika dolina;
- regular inspections, cleaning of walls in the cave and Velika dolina and measurements of geological drifts (alongside cracks, falling stones...) and protection of visitors against falling stones by means of galleries and collecting nets on exposed locations, inspection and cleaning of the existing collecting nets.

### **6.3.2 Objectives for the establishment and maintenance of economic, social and cultural development of local inhabitants**

#### **6.3.2.1 Enabling local inhabitants to improve housing conditions while taking account of culture protection conditions in the restoration of cultural monuments**

MEASURES:

- preparation of project documentation and phased replacement of the existing heating system (petroleum) with an environmentally-friendly central heating system in the ŠCP (gas, solar energy...) and a distribution cable system;
- advisory services in the procurement of authorizations for activities which affect the environment related to the restoration of structures;
- activities in accordance with Article 23 of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act.

#### **6.3.2.2 Enabling the revitalization of abandoned structures and other infrastructure, especially for the purposes of local population or activities related to the Park**

MEASURES:

- co-financing of the restoration of cultural monuments and cultural heritage owned by local inhabitants for additional tourist offer (apartments and rooms) in accordance with Article 23 of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act;
- phased restoration of pavements in the ŠCP;
- arrangement of the square in Škocjan and the steps beneath the square;
- installation of information panels and provision of benches and rubbish bins for rest areas and viewpoints;
- co-financing of regular maintenance work at the village cemetery (cultural monument);
- renovation of buildings for museum presentations or other cultural activities.

#### **6.3.2.3 Ensuring better information for local inhabitants and visitors**

MEASURES:

- publication of a newspaper for the purpose of informing the inhabitants in the Park and people who live in the area of influence;
- publication of monthly events in the Škocjan Park Caves on the notice board in the Matavun square and in the media;
- provision of information in writing to all households in the Park area about important events in the Park.

#### **6.3.2.4 Conservation and promotion of agricultural production, especially ecologically-oriented food**

MEASURES:

- promotion and monitoring of the formulation of criteria which guarantee and monitor the adequacy of cottage industry products for sale and their realization (trademark).

#### **6.3.2.5 Development of activities related to tourism and operation of local tourist associations**

MEASURES:

- formulation of criteria for the introduction of the trademark and promotion of quality;
- publication of promotion material with the presentation of the villages of Škocjan, Betanja and Matavun and other sights in the vicinity of the Park;
- co-financing of the annual Škocjan Festival of amateur theatre groups organized by the Škocjan Tourist Organization;
- provision of adequate assistance and co-financing of annual events organized by tourist associations;
- provision of accommodation facilities and programmes as well as other service activities.

### **6.3.2.6 Provision of opportunities for education, student grants and employment, especially to the young**

#### MEASURES:

- provision of student grants to young inhabitants of the Park;
- seasonal work for students;
- employment of the unemployed for a fixed period of time during periods of increased visits to the Škocjan Caves.

## **6.4 Wider objectives**

### **6.4.1 Objectives for the limitation of actual sources of pollution and other activities which affect the environment and represent a risk or hazard to the environment in the area of influence of the Park, the adverse impacts of which affect the Park (industry, craft trade, agriculture, infrastructure, military facilities and other devices and other activities which pollute the environment)**

#### MEASURES:

- integration of protection regimes and measures in the ordinances and regulations of local communities in the area of influence of the Park;
- continuous supervision and reminding of local, national and international institutions of the categorization of activities which represent a risk or hazard to the environment and/or change the appearance of the original and cultural landscapes and which are contrary to the regulations and provisions of the law or international conventions;
- supervision and notification of competent services of the breaches of the regime under the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act;
- integration of the agents of development in municipalities in the area of influence within the framework of approved international projects (Interreg III and similar) into a faster and improved development of the wider area of influence;
- participation in the preparation of development and spatial documentation of municipalities in the area of influence of the Park, especially with nature protection guidelines;
- activities for the establishment of the notification system in the event of potential leakage of petroleum derivatives and dangerous substances in the Reka River and its tributaries and ensuring the implementation of decisions on the establishment of an intervention team and equipment purchase (hydropack);
- participation in the harmonization of notification regimes on water release into the Reka River at the Mol and Klivnik barrages and other potential barrages for the purpose of preventing accidents and damage in the Škocjan Caves system, in co-operation with the manager and regional notification centre;
- co-operation with the vehicles of agricultural developments in terms of support for the transition to integrated or organic farming in the entire area of influence of the Park;
- building awareness of the inhabitants and visitors about the ecology of animal and plant species and state of preservation of their habitats;
- building awareness of the inhabitants and visitors about the importance of environmental protection with an emphasis on water resources;
- preparation and updating of the map of illegal waste dumps and the hydrogeological map of the area of influence;
- co-operation with speleologists in the cleaning of polluted caves;
- co-operation with fishermen in the cleaning of the riverbed and banks, supervision and notifications in the event of pollution.

## **6.5 Education and awareness-raising on the significance of natural resources and cultural heritage in the protected area and the area of influence of the Škocjan Caves Park, wider area of the original Karst and Slovenia**

### **6.5.1 Employee education**

MEASURES:

- educational training of employees in the ŠCP in the area of protection, presentation and conservation of valuable natural features and cultural heritage, nature protection, environmental, karstological and biological sciences, meteorology, occupational safety, communication, pedagogics, economy, museum activities and foreign languages;
- participation at various congresses, symposia, conferences, workshops in Slovenia and abroad;
- professional visits to other protected areas and exchange of experience.

**6.5.2 Education and awareness-raising of local inhabitants**

MEASURES:

- education of local inhabitants relating to the protection and conservation of valuable natural features and cultural heritage, sustainable development and ecological tourism.

**6.5.3 Education and awareness-raising of voluntary nature protection workers and educational workers**

MEASURES:

- organization of educational courses and expert guided tours for new voluntary nature protection workers and educational workers;
- provision of supplementary education and presentation of the latest developments for old nature protection supervisors;
- professional visits to other protected areas and exchange of experience.

**6.5.4 Education and awareness-raising of Slovenian and foreign visitors**

MEASURES:

- education and awareness-raising of Slovenian and foreign visitors by means of education trails, museum collections, publications, periodical thematic exhibitions and general presentation of natural and karst phenomena.

**6.5.5 Education and awareness-raising of pupils and students**

MEASURES:

- preparation and implementation of programmes, thematic classes, nature protection and creative workshops, literary courses, photography classes, expert guided tours for primary and secondary schools within the framework of the ŠCP Network of Schools which now comprises the schools in the Divača Municipality, schools in the area of influence of the Park – Ilirska Bistrica and Kutežev – and schools across the border; the Network of Schools is also open to other schools which show interest for participation;
- participation in the education of students of higher education institutions from Slovenia and abroad, and participation in international educational projects, especially within the framework of UNESCO, MAB Programme, Wetlands of International Importance etc.;
- preparation of educational worksheets and new interesting material along the education trails.

**6.6 Monitoring**

**6.6.1 Establishment, implementation and maintenance of monitoring in the Škocjan Caves system**

MEASURES:

- procurement and installation of equipment for monitoring the state in the Škocjan Caves system;
- collection and analysis of data on the existing cave monitoring;

- monitoring of radon concentration and its decayed progeny, percolating water, temperature, humidity, air pressure, carbon dioxide, aerosols, light, dust, noise;
- monitoring of cave flora and fauna and performance of periodical microbiological analyses with basic laboratory equipment;
- flowstone monitoring;
- monitoring of rock stability by means of digital meters;
- continuous monitoring of the impact of tourist visits on cave microclimate.

#### **6.6.2 Establishment, implementation and maintenance of monitoring in the surface area of the Park**

##### **MEASURES:**

- participation in the construction of the automatic meteorological station behind the management building in the Park with a compatible measurement system and connection with the MESP and the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (EARS);
- completion of the project for flora and fauna inventory, carried out by the Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, SAZU, Ljubljana;
- monitoring of the state of sites and protection of rare and endangered plant species;
- monitoring of the state of habitats and protection of rare and endangered animal species;
- sampling and research of carbonate rock and flowstone in the surface area in co-operation with competent institutions.

#### **6.6.3 Integration of the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (EARS) and the MESP in the establishment and implementation of monitoring of the Reka River**

##### **MEASURES:**

- participation in the implementation of water monitoring with periodical taking of samples and integration of data in the national monitoring network;
- participation in the establishment of the new water gauge station ahead of the sink hole into the Škocjan Caves (in Malni);
- monitoring and evaluation of flora and fauna on the banks and in the riverbed of the Reka River.

### **7. METHODS OF PARK DEVELOPMENT REALIZATION, ADJUSTED TAX POLICY AND OTHER INCENTIVES (SUBSIDIES, REFUNDS, INCENTIVE LENDING POLICY)**

Sources of funds of the Public Service Agency are defined in the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act. Article 22 of the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act stipulates that the Public Service Agency obtains funds for the performance of its activities:

- from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of the annual programme and financial plan of the Public Service Agency, approved by the Minister;
- from the budgets of local communities;
- from admission fees and donations;
- from funds generated by real estate management;
- from concessions;
- from other sources.

The Public Service Agency may use funds obtained in accordance with the last four indents of paragraph one for the purposes of protection of valuable natural features and cultural monuments, ecological rehabilitation, payment of subsidies and donations to natural persons and promotion of harmonious development of the protected area in accordance with the Decree on the distribution of funds of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 84/99).

In addition to the abovementioned funds, the Škocjan Caves Park and local communities in the area of influence may obtain funds through calls for tender of individual ministries (the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, the Ministry of Economy, Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy ...) and calls for tender of the European structural funds for projects from the field of environment,

agriculture, tourism, culture, economy and regional development which support sustainable development of the area.

Individual ministries will accord priority treatment to the provision of the following incentive policies in the ŠCP and the area of influence:

- in the environmental field, especially the construction of local economic public infrastructure in the Park and the area of influence and the rational use of energy; in the Operational Programme on the Discharge and Treatment of Urban Waste Waters, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning will as a priority provide funds for the implementation of public utility projects, which will contribute to the arrangement of the situation in the area of water protection in the Park;
- in the agricultural field, especially measures for the preservation of extensive traditional agricultural use and activation of abandoned areas, development of organic farming, product marketing and trademark creation, and the development of supplementary activities on farms;
- in the field of tourism, the creation of new tourist products and trademarks, construction of new accommodation facilities and programmes especially in smaller accommodation facilities (apartments, boarding houses, family hotels etc.) and construction of public infrastructure (cycling trails, themed paths, parking areas, viewpoints);
- in the field of culture, the restoration of cultural monuments and cultural heritage and their integration in the Park's marketing, creation of a cultural product (cultural events, museum collections etc.);
- in the field of economy, especially the development of small business and cottage industry;
- in the field of regional development, especially complex intersectoral development projects.

Incentive policies are carried out by means of subsidies, the payment of refunds and adjusted lending policy according to valid procedures of sectoral policies. These types of funding will ensure transparency and efficiency with criteria based on indicators from the Resolution on the National Environmental Protection Programme for the period 2005–2012 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 2/06).

Concrete development projects will be included in annual work programmes of the public service agency according to the priorities of individual sectoral policies. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia will approve annual work programmes and define the amount of financial resources for the implementation of the PPD ŠCP according to the priorities set.

The ŠCP will continue to draw funds from the UNESCO world heritage grant funds and other grants and participate in open competitions and international tenders for research and development projects. Direct budget burden is thus reduced and various opportunities for faster development are provided to the inhabitants of the ŠCP.

The estimation of revenues depends on the candidacy for individual international programmes and grants; therefore it has not been possible to provide a realistic estimation of revenues in the preparation of the PPD ŠCP. Since individual programmes will be harmonised with the ministries for individual periods, these resources could not be included in the present programme. In accordance with the investment needs defined in the PPD ŠCP, the investment programme will be supplemented annually.

The interested ministries and the Divača Municipality will participate in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter in line with the interests and opportunities for the exploitation of budgetary resources, which is related to the adoption of annual or two-year budgets.

Annual financial plans of the Škocjan Caves Park will thus be adapted to the real needs and revenues from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia, its own activities and candidacies for individual projects in Slovenia and EU and any potential donations, without amending the basic concept of the PPD ŠCP.

## **8. PRIORITY LIST OF ACTIVITIES OF THE ŠKOCJAN CAVES PARK FOR THE PERIOD 2006 - 2010**

	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>YEAR OF REALIZATION</b>
1.	Establishment of comprehensive monitoring in the Škocjan Caves Park (water, cave microclimate, radon, flowstone) and its integration in the national monitoring network and monitoring of the situation in accordance with the Škocjan Caves Regional Park Act	2006-2010

2.	Operation in accordance with conventions (UNESCO, RAMSAR and MAB Programme)	2006-2010
3.	Ensuring the safety for visitors and employees in the ŠCP	2006-2010
4.	Continuation of illegal waste dump rehabilitation	2007-2010
5.	Completion of individual phases of Information Centre reorganization and modernization	2006-2008
6.	Participation in project documentation preparation for the organisation of villages of Škocjan, Matavun and Betanja as "model examples" of eco villages and the beginning of construction	2007-2010
7.	Organization and maintenance of infrastructure in the Škocjan Caves system (illumination, walkways, fences, nets, retaining walls, bridges, telephony, water supply, shed in front of the entrance in Globočak, videosurveillance...)	2006-2010
8.	Assessment of the load-bearing capacity of the caves or the greatest possible number of visitors that individual parts of the Škocjan Caves can bear without adverse effects on the environment (on a daily, monthly, seasonal, yearly basis) and provision of a study concerning a more detailed cave fauna inventory	2007-2008
9.	Activities for the establishment of the notification system and prompt action in the event of potential leakage of petroleum derivatives and dangerous substances in the Reka River and its tributaries and ensuring the implementation of decisions on intervention team training and equipment purchase (TIB Transport, Ilirska Bistrica)	2007-2010
10.	Restoration of tourist paths in the Mahorčič and Marinič caves and Mala dolina	2007-2010
11.	Activities for the notification of candidacy for the Škocjan Caves Park enlargement to the Mejame area near the village of Dane	2007-2008
12.	Urban waste water collection and treatment	2007-2010

## 9. PLANNED STRUCTURE OF RESOURCES

Given the various factors which affect the activity of the Škocjan Caves Park Public Service Agency, especially with regard to the explicit variability of Park visits and the effectiveness of participation in tendering procedures in Slovenia and abroad, and given the operating conditions, it is legitimate to expect that it will be necessary to harmonize annual programmes which arise from the PPD ŠCP with the actually available financial funds.

The changes can also affect the priority list of activities of the ŠCP for the period 2006 – 2010.

(in SIT mio)

REVENUES	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
<b>REVENUES</b>	347	316	325	324	336	1,648
Budget of the Republic of Slovenia	114	117	119	122	128	600
Own funds	190	192	195	200	203	980
Programmes	38	7	11	2	5	63
Donations	5					5

<b>COSTS</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>COSTS</b>	257	225	245	245	256	1,228
<b>1.2.1 Labour costs</b>	129	133	142	144	150	698
<b>1.2.2 Material expenses, services and programmes</b>	128	93	103	100	106	530

<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	90	90	80	80	80	420

Estimate of required investments in the Škocjan Caves Park for the period 2006 – 2010, explained in Chapter 6 – OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES:

(in SIT mio)						
<b>6 OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>6.1 OBJECTIVES FOR PARTICIPATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, PROGRAMMES, ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>99.7</b>
6.1.1 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO	5.8	8.8	6.2	5.5	5.8	32.1
6.1.2 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the Ramsar Convention, UNESCO	8	1.5	2	1.5	1.5	14.5
6.1.3 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the MAB Programme, UNESCO	2.2	2	1.5	1.4	1.4	8.5
6.1.4 Operation in accordance with the provisions of Natura 2000	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	2
6.1.5 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas	7	11.5	10.5	3.5	2.5	35
6.1.6 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the Europarc Organization	0.9	1	0.8	0.9	0.9	4.5
6.1.7 Operation in accordance with the provisions of the ISCA Organization	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.6	3.1
<b>6.2 PROTECTION OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>713</b>
<b>6.2.1 Objectives for the conservation of outstanding geomorphological, geological and hydrological natural features</b>	<b>104.7</b>	<b>109.8</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>490.7</b>
6.2.1.1 Conservation of exceptional surface and underground Karst phenomena, especially caves, abysses and collapse dolines	82	80	79	75	68	384
6.2.1.2 Conservation of hydrological and hydrogeomorphological characteristics	3.2	3	3	2	1.5	12.7

<i>of the riverbed and banks of the Reka River</i>						
6.2.1.3 Extension of the protected area of the Park to the contact point with flysch (the Mejame area)	1.5	3.5	3.5	4	2.5	15
6.2.1.4 Improvement of water quality in the Reka River and its tributaries	9.5	8.5	4	4	2.5	28.5
6.2.1.5 Limitation and prevention or reduction of all kinds of pollution	4	6.3	5.7	5	3	24
6.2.1.6 Harmonization and organization of the research of natural characteristics in the Park area	4.5	8.5	7.5	3	3	26.5
<b>6.2.2 Objectives for the conservation of rare, endangered and endemic plant and animal species</b>	2.8	3.8	3	1.5	1	12.1
6.2.2.1 Conservation of ecosystems and variety of species	2.5	1.8	1.5	1	1	7.8
6.2.2.2 Promotion of further biospeleological research	0.3	2	1.5	0.5	0	4.3
<b>6.2.3 Conservation of paleontological sites and archaeological heritage</b>	0.8	4.7	5	10	3	23.5
6.2.3.1 Protection and organization of management of archaeological and paleontological sites	0.3	1.2	3.5	9	3	17
6.2.3.2 Compliance with the decision on prior and protective archaeological research in relation to future land interventions in the area of proclaimed monuments and the simultaneous examination of archaeological potential in other land works	0.5	3.5	1.5	1	0	6.5
<b>6.2.4 Objectives for the conservation of ethnological heritage, architectural characteristics and cultural landscape</b>	62.8	32.5	32.5	30	28.2	186
6.2.4.1 Prevention of further deterioration of structural monuments and their gradual restoration and revitalization	3.8	15	13.5	12	5	49.3
6.2.4.2 Protection of cultural monuments	55	12	10	5	5	87
6.2.4.3 Restoration of damaged and demolished dry walls and old paths in the Škocjan Caves system	3	3	7	4	5	22
6.2.4.4 Conservation of cultural landscape and prevention of overgrowth	0.5	0.5	1	1	1.2	4.2
6.2.4.5 Restoration of technical heritage (dams, mills, walls and millraces ahead of the Reka River sink hole)	0.5	2	1	8	12	23.5
<b>6.3. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>653.2</b>
<b>6.3.1 Objectives for the establishment of tourist opportunities and recreational offer, promotion of tourist development</b>	89	114	90	105	132	530

6.3.1.1 Ensuring better visibility of the Škocjan Caves Park in Slovenia and abroad	65	85	60	65	87	<b>362</b>
6.3.1.2 Expansion and enrichment of tourist opportunities in the Park	8	12	12	15	15	<b>62</b>
6.3.1.3 Ensuring greatest possible safety for visitors and employees in the Park	16	17	18	25	30	<b>106</b>
<b>6.3.2 Objectives for the establishment and maintenance of economic, social and cultural development of local inhabitants</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>122.7</b>
6.3.2.1 Enabling local inhabitants to improve housing conditions while taking account of culture protection conditions in the restoration of cultural heritage	2	5	6	14	13	<b>40</b>
6.3.2.2 Enabling the revitalization of abandoned structures and other infrastructure, especially for the purposes of local population or activities related to the Park	4	8	10	14	14	<b>50</b>
6.3.2.3 Ensuring better information for local inhabitants and visitors	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	<b>7.2</b>
6.3.2.4 Conservation and promotion of agricultural production, especially ecologically-oriented food	0.5	0.8	1	1.2	1	<b>4.5</b>
6.3.2.5 Development of activities related to tourism and operation of local tourist associations	2	2.5	2.5	3	3	<b>13</b>
6.3.2.6 Provision of opportunities for education, student grants and employment, especially to the young	0.5	1.5	1.5	2	2.5	<b>8</b>
<b>6.4 WIDER OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>6.4.1 Objectives for the limitation of actual sources of pollution and other activities which affect the environment and represent a risk or hazard to the environment in the area of influence of the Park, adverse impacts of which affect the Park (industry, craft trade, agriculture, infrastructure, military facilities and other devices and other activities which pollute the environment)</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>6.5 EDUCATION AND BUILDING AWARENESS...</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>46.2</b>
6.5.1 Employee education	2.8	2.8	3	3.5	3.5	<b>15.6</b>
6.5.2 Education and building awareness of local inhabitants	0.8	1	1.2	1.5	1.5	<b>6</b>
6.5.3 Education and building awareness of voluntary nature protection workers and educational workers	1.2	1.6	1.6	2	2	<b>8.4</b>
6.5.4 Education and building awareness of Slovenian and foreign	1.5	1.5	2	2	2.5	<b>9.5</b>

visitors						
<b>6.5.5 Education and building awareness of pupils and students</b>	1	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.8	<b>6.7</b>
<b>6.6 MONITORING</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>77.3</b>
<b>6.6.1 Establishment, implementation and maintenance of monitoring in the Škocjan Caves system</b>	9.4	12	12	13	9	<b>55.4</b>
<b>6.6.2 Establishment, implementation and maintenance of monitoring in the surface area of the Park</b>	2.8	3	4	2.2	2.5	<b>14.5</b>
<b>6.6.3 Integration of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) – the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (EARS) in the establishment and implementation of monitoring of the Reka River</b>	0.8	1.1	2	2	1.5	<b>7.4</b>
<b><i>Reserve for unforeseen measures</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12.5</b>
<b>TOTAL OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>1,610.2</b>

## 10. ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME FOR PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

This Decree shall enter into force on the day after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.

No 801-07/94-5/5

Done at Ljubljana, 19 December 2006

EPA 1017-IV

**President  
of the National Assembly  
of the Republic of Slovenia  
Dr. France Cukjati**