

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNED ARRANGEMENT OF THE ŠAR MOUNTAIN ŽUPAS OF SERBIA*

Introduction

Multipurpose planning to protect, develop and put in order the Šar Mountain area started in 1998 after comprehensive preceding research carried out by the "Jovan Cvijić" Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and other institutions. Serbia opted for these research and planning activities in order to create better conditions for economic development, arrangement, usage and environmental protection of the Šar Mountain region.

Almost the entire region, incorporating the municipalities of Sirinić, Sredska, Opolje and Gora, was included in the study while some parts of the municipalities of Uroševac, Kačanik, Suva Reka, Djakovica and Prizren along the river Beli Drim and border towards Albania were not.

The studied areas are in the following height belts⁸⁵:

up to 750 m	12,65 km ²
750-1000 m	98,30 km ²
1000-1250 m	184,19 km ²
1250-1500 m	167,55 km ²
1500-2000 m	311,55 km ²
2000-2500 m	144,28 km ²
above 2,500 m	2,00 km ²
Total	920,52 km²

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⁸⁵ 1. Кирбус, Б. (1990): **Морфометријске карактеристике рељефа** (Morphometric characteristics of relief) in "Општина Штрпе (Сиринићка жупа) – Одлике природне средине" (The Municipality of Štrpce (Sirinić župa) – Characteristics of the Natural Environment), Географски институт "Јован Цвијић" САНУ, Посебна издања, књ. 37/1, Београд (p. 87-95)

2. Ђорђевић, Ј. (1994): **Морфометријске карактеристике рељефа** (Morphometric characteristics of relief) in "Шарпланинске жупе Гора, Опоље и Средска - Одлике природне средине (The Šar Mountain Župas Gora, Opolje and Sredska – Characteristics of the Natural Environment), Географски институт "Јован Цвијић" САНУ, Посебна издања, књ. 40/1, Београд (p. 81-84)

The area investigated by the Geographical Institute in the municipalities of Štrpce (247.6 km²) and Gora (385.6 km²), and to some extent in the municipality of Prizren (Opolje 126.4 km² and Sredska 160.9 km²) totals 920.5 km².

The mentioned territories are situated in the most southwesterly part of Serbia, representing the borderline 100 km long towards Macedonia and 43 km long towards Albania.

The studied space is an area of extreme geopolitical importance because of its two basic macro geographical characteristics - high mountain and close to border position. The space intended for planning is still greater and covers approximately 1,400 km².

The research conducted by the Geographical Institute has shown that:

- Šar Mountain is an extremely valuable natural complex judged by its rich, unique and rare natural phenomena, forms and processes that must be controlled (planned, protected, rationally used) as unconnectedly so along the length of the entire mountain complex;
- the Šar Mountain expanse offers adequate possibilities for numerous economic developments and actions of its population;
- it is a more densely populated area in contrast to other mountain areas in Serbia;
- it is even now an economically underdeveloped part of Serbia without real chances for development unless capital is invested by stronger economic enterprises, companies and banks or at least the state of Serbia (through establishment of separate funds for development of Šar Mountain on economic grounds);
- Šar Mountain and the network of settlements in its župas are not adequately covered by infrastructure, in the first place by traffic;
- considerable woodless parts of its area are exposed to intensive soil erosion;
- organization of its settlements and their provision with necessary facilities are on a relatively low level.

The previously mentioned values of Šar Mountain as well as the problems of development, organization and use of space in its župas Sirinić, Sredska, Opolje and Gora are described in six books (three about Sirinić, and three about other three župas). The books deal with the natural, anthropogeographical and demographic characteristics, economic development, organization and use of space, network of settlements and centers. Two more books are being prepared for press, as well as a book of synthesizing character on Šar Mountain in its entirety.

In association with the Institute of Architecture and Town Planning of Serbia,⁸⁶ the Geographical Institute additionally carried out the Spatial Plan of

⁸⁶ 1. Bursać, M. и сарадници (1992), "Просторни план Општине Штрпце" (Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Štrpce), Институт за архитектуру и урбанизам Србије и Географски институт "Јован Цвијић" САНУ, Београд (р. 1-125 with 8 maps in R - 1:25.000)

the municipality of Štrpce (the Sirinić župa). Its solutions for space planning and the National Park of Šar Mountain as well as development of tourist and other activities in the municipality of Štrpce are presented on maps in ratio 1: 50,000. All aspects of the organization and use of space were treated in agreement with the Law on Planning and Arrangement of Space in Serbia actual at that time.

The analyzed space puts on view all characteristics of high mountain areas with extremely valuable natural phenomena, forms and processes of a unique or rare "character", and spaces of extreme importance to development of numerous kinds of tourism, particularly Alpine, and intensification of other economic activities (forestry, cattle breeding, fruit growing, use of medicinal herbs, fishing, energy supply etc.).

Demographic conditions were also similarly favorable to development of the mentioned activities because of a relatively high population density, contrary to other four mountain regions in Serbia (high more than 2,000 m above sea level). This is why the centers of four Šar Mountain župas: Štrpce, Sredska, Brodosavce and Dragaš in addition to Prizren had so good chances of development.

Population and the network of settlements and centers

Demographic characteristics and movements are analyzed in detail as from the viewpoint of the origin and to date population migrations, so from the viewpoint of the basic structures and distribution of the population in the network of settlements and centers.

The first aspect is anthropogeographical in character. The results of research can largely meet the requirements of all types of planning. From them conclusions can be drawn about different approaches to life and work, building of apartment houses and settlements, organization of economic development, and particularly openness (or closeness) of certain ethnic groups in relation to future forms and directions of town planning and ecological concepts of building, development and protection of the natural and cultural monuments. The following example can best illustrate how great are the ethnic and cultural differences between some župas: Albanians (Shiptars) live in the eastern part of the municipality of Štrpce, Serbs live more towards the west, Muslims live in the eastern part of Sredska, Serbs as well as Muslims live westwards, Albanians live in Opolje and Goranies in Gora.

The second aspect, demographic in character, concerns the analyses of population number and structure according to the results of censuses carried out in the last 100 years with a special emphasis on the 'actual' state. Assumptions of possible variations in the number of population are given to the year 2011. Prognoses of demographic changes of the number of population are given for all

settlements. The age and sex structure of households and characteristic age groups are envisaged for the municipalities of Sredska, Opolje and Gora. These structures are foreseen for every settlement in the municipality of Štrpce.

Around 64,000 inhabitants (76 inhabitants per km²) lived in the Šar Mountain župas in 1991 (173 inhabitants per km² in Opolje).

There were about 1,000 inhabitants on the average in every of 64 settlements in that area, which clearly points not only to a great population density but also to its concentration in a relatively small number of places. For example, around 1,000 inhabitants at the most live at present in the area of Visoka on Stara Planina (Mountain) in the municipality of Pirot.

Infrastructure

Documentation includes necessary appendices exemplifying provision of infrastructure in the fields of traffic, energetics, applied hydraulics and social sphere.

The level of development reached so far and the state of infrastructural networks are reviewed and the prognosis of the needs in the next ten years or so is given.

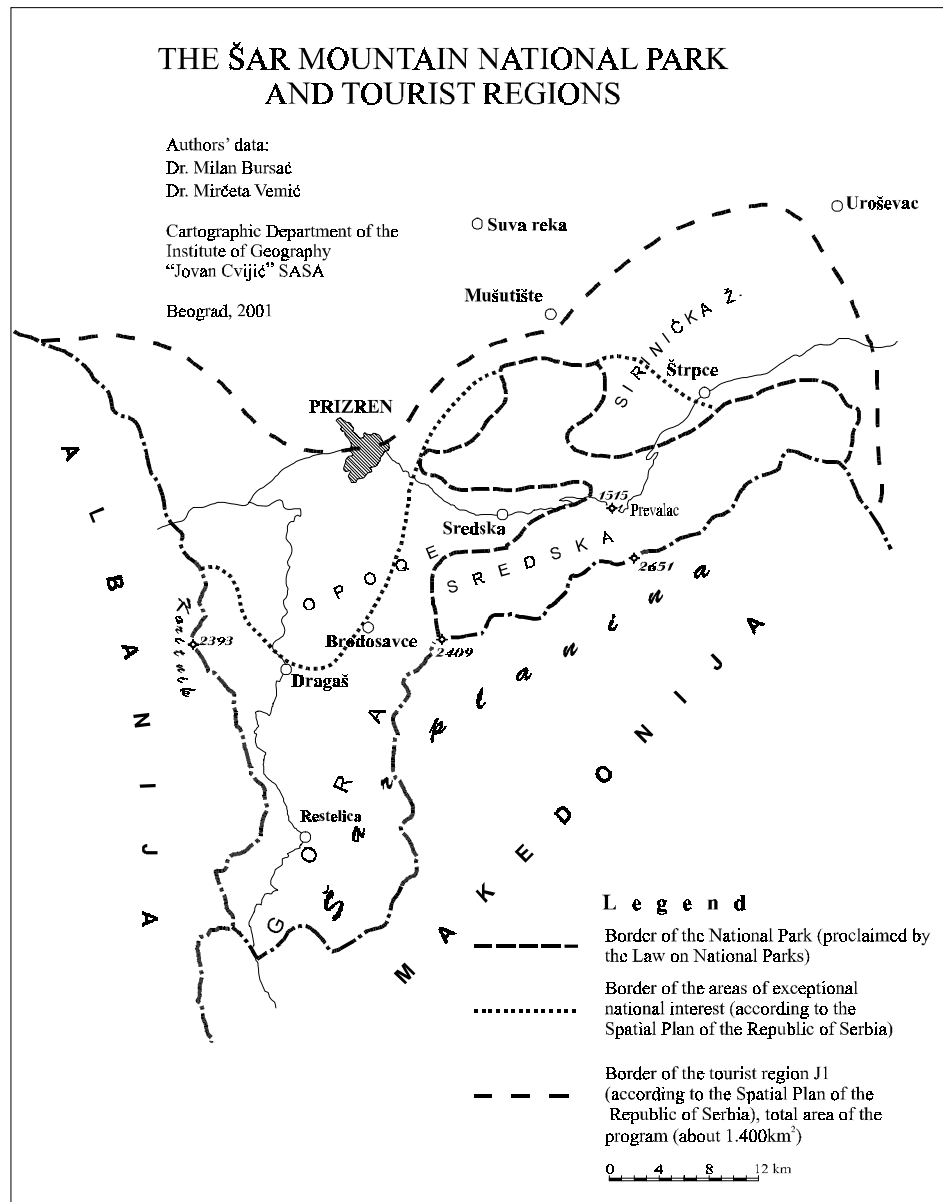
The actual state of infrastructural networks of the municipality of Štrpce, at the time of their study, as well as at the end of the planned period is estimated through analyses and plans for the next period (in the Spatial Plan of the municipality of Štrpce). Because the year 1991 or some of the preceding years were taken as starting points all assumptions for the next planning period should necessarily be checked. Cartographic presentations are given in the ratio from 1:100,000 to 1:50,000. Some parts of the area are cartographically presented on other more detailed maps.

The research results obtained for Gora, Opolje and Sredska suffice to prepare spatial and planning documentation related to infrastructure.

Of the project results listed in documentation the most important are those, which point out the need for better infrastructural interconnection of the Šar Mountain župas. There is a deeply felt need and manifested interest of Goranians to set up the shortest traffic connection between Štrpce and Priština by a road from Dragaš, over Brodosavac (in Opolje) through Sredska župa.

Proposals for modernization and construction of certain infrastructural networks are submitted. Economic justifications are added to back up some solutions.

In accord with the needs for a more rapid economic and tourist development, the requirements for establishment of new traffic sections and directions, and introduction of new infrastructural systems (track vehicles) are referred to in documentation.



Map 6. The Šar Mountain National Park and tourist regions

Regarding the "Lepenac" project, alternative solutions are suggested for the location of dam near the village Brod in the municipality of Štrpce. Solutions for a more exhaustive use of the Šar Mountain waters are useful not only for the water supply of the župas but of the neighboring area at the foot of Šar Mountain as well.

Every solution necessitates interconnection of all župas (in agreement with their needs) and their linking to Prizren and Uroševac

Use of space

The research includes analyses of the natural potentials, estimation of their values and suitability for the purpose of economic development, construction of settlements and infrastructure.

The use of space with directions of further utilization for certain other purposes in the future is shown in the maps in the ratio from 1:100,000 to 1:50,000, sometimes in more detailed maps depending on the needs.

Documentation is supplemented with proposals for the use of space for waste dumps, protection of natural goods, infrastructural objects construction, medicinal herbs cultivation, industrial objects construction, peat exploitation, water reservoirs formation, settlements extension, tourism development, forest growing, traffic development etc.

The usability degree of that documentation is reasonably high with the exception of a part of Šar Mountain in the Opolje area. During the research period establishment of (safe) contacts with Albanian population or its representatives was not possible. For that reason wide-ranging analyses could not be made with regard to future needs for the space.

It seemed that Opolje "did not want" to become a municipality in 1990 when Gora, separated from the municipality of Dragaš, constituted its own municipality. It was then necessary to follow a certain legal procedure to be linked up to the municipality of Prizren.

Economic development

In already mentioned analyses natural and other possibilities for development of the Šar Mountain area were evaluated with a view to its župas.

Development achieved so far was analyzed in detail by certain branches and altogether, and proposals for future development were submitted.

Associates of the Geographical Institute from other (specialized) institutions did a more comprehensive research simultaneously with the mentioned analyses and made specific programs for further development of certain activities or their branches. These programs were intended for rapid implementation in practice with the aim to obtain advantageous results in the

shortest possible time in fruit growing, medicinal herbs cultivation (and processing), fodder, potatoes, cattle breeding, tourism, reclaiming of soil from erosion etc.

Specialized institutions took over the realization of certain programs. Their results would be much faster and greater if privatization and stimulation of private initiative in economic and supplementary activities could be faster.

Conclusion

Research carried out so far in the Šar Mountain župas represents a good basis for elaboration of spatial plans for that region.⁸⁷

However, it is necessary to assume certain renovations in some segments if one would insist on data as old as 1-2 years. It applies to prognoses of the future changes in the planning period for the next twenty years or so for all segments related to population, network of settlements and economic development, building of apartments and the like.

Particularly important would be research into the area of about 500 km² of territory surrounding the space envisaged for planning (already mentioned), which has not yet been explored by the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić".

⁸⁷ Results of the research project on the Šar Mountain Župas are published by the Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić", SASA, in the following collections of papers:

1. Dinić, J., Lazarević, R., sa 18 autora (1990): **Општина Штрпце (Сиринићка жупа)** (The Municipality of Štrpce-Sirinić župa), **Одлике природне средине** (Characteristics of the Natural Environment), Географски институт"Јован Цвијић" САНУ, Посебна издања - књига 37/ I, Београд (p. 1-392).

2. Radovanović, V., M., Radovanović, S., sa 4 autora (1990): **Општина Штрпце (Сиринићка жупа)** (The Municipality of Štrpce-Sirinić župa) , **Демографски развој и особености социјалног простора** (Demographic Development and Characteristics of the Social Environment), Географски институт"Јован Цвијић" САНУ, Посебна издања, књ. 37/ II, Београд (p. 1-189).

3. Дерић, Б., Бурсаћ, М., sa 32 autora (1991): **Општина Штрпце (Сиринићка жупа)** (The Municipality of Štrpce-Sirinić župa) , **Друштвено-економски развој, организација и коришћење простора** (Socio-economic Development, Organization and Use of Space), Географски институт"Јован Цвијић" САНУ, Посебна издања, књ. 37/ III, Београд (p. 1-354).

4. Lazarević, R., Radovanović, M. M., sa 19 autora (1994): **Шарпланинске жупе Гора, Опоље и Средска** (The Šar Mountain župas Gora, Opolje adn Sredska), **Одлике природне средине** (Characteristics of the Natural Environment), Географски институт"Јован Цвијић" САНУ, Посебна издања, књ. 40/ I, Београд (p. 1-335).

5. Радвановић, В. М., Radovanović, S., Antonijević, D., sa 14 autora (1995): **Шарпланинске жупе Гора, Опоље и Средска** (The Šhar Mountain župas Gora, Opolje adn Sredska), **Антропогеографско-етнолошке, демографске, социолошке и културолошке карактеристике** (Anthropogeographical and Ethnological, Demographic, Sociological and Cultural Characteristics), Географски институт"Јован Цвијић" САНУ, Посебна издања, књ. 40/ II, Београд (p. 1-582).

6. Дерић, Б., Todorović, M., Miletić, R., sa 28 autora (1997): **Шарпланинске жупе Гора, Опоље и Средска** (The Šhar Mountain župas Gora, Opolje and Sredska), **Друштвено-економски развој** (Socio-economic Development), Географски институт "Јован Цвијић" САНУ, Посебна издања, књ. 40/ III, Београд (p. 1-356).

More detailed investigations as well as elaboration of general or expert studies of the following topics would be extremely useful:

- for example, organization of the Winter Olympic Games in Prizren as the center of the Šar Mountain area and potentially the most important town in Serbia;
- study of traffic connecton of the neighboring areas and states, particularly of Gora with Štrpce and Priština over Opolje and Sredska on one side, and towards Albania and Macedonia on the other side;
- complex utilization of the Šar Mountain waters;
- municipal and economic development of settlements in the close vicinity of tourist centers;
- study of tourist potentials of the area and requests for development of tourism;
- complex study of space utilization with prognoses;
- complex study of demographic development with projections;
- development of the network of settlements and centers (with a special emphasis on their interconnection);
- study of long-term economic development (with elaboration of specific developmental programs of some branches and activities).

The list is not yet complete. It is necessary to conduct detailed investigations of geopolitical nature into the present and future relations of Serbia and Yugoslavia on one side, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania on the other. The place and role of the Šar Mountain border area in developmental long-term plans of Serbia (Spatial Plan of Serbia and other plans primarily developmental in character) could serve as models for such plans.