

To: Front 21/42

Date: 31/12/15

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Public hearing for the Revised Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report for Draft Amendments to the Management Plan for National Park Galichica for the Period 2011 – 2020

With reference to your letter dated 24th of December 2015 and received on 29th of December 2015 in relation to the duration of the public consultation as well as the date for the public hearing for the Revised Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report, we would like to inform you on the following.

The public consultation process has been carried out in accordance with the Article 69 of the Law on Environment and the Decree on the public participation in the process of preparation of environmental regulations and other acts as well as environmental plans and programs (O.G. of RM Nos. 147/08 & 45/11).

Furthermore, the Decree specifies the following timeframes related to the public disclosure process:

- The duration of the public consultation is 30 calendar days from MoEPP's Positive Opinion being published on the responsible entity's website
- The public hearing has to be scheduled between the 15th and the 25th day from MoEPP's Positive Opinion being published on the responsible entity's website

The Draft Revised SEA Report was disclosed for public consultation on 28th of August 2015 on the web site of National Park Galichica (NPG). The technical consultation for the Draft SEA Report was held on the 11th of September 2015 on NPG's premises.

Following the initial review of the Draft SEA Report by the MoEPP, NPG has prepared the Annex on the Report which has also been made publically available.

Once the Annex was published, a positive opinion issued by MoEPP has been disclosed on the NPG's website on 18th of December 2015.

As you would be aware, the Opinion specifies next steps that NPG has to follow up in order the SEA Report to obtain the MoEPP final approval.

Given the fact that the documents have been in the public domain for over four months, we believe there has been sufficient time for stakeholder analysis and comment leading up to the formal public consultation process.

We would also like to stress that the process of public consultation is still ongoing until the 18th of January 2016, which is the mandatory deadline according to the national legislation. In this respect we are willing to consider your proposal to extend the public consultation period until the 11th of February 2016 in order to allow more time for stakeholders to present their views and comments.

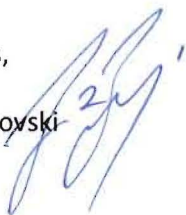
However, regarding the forthcoming public hearing scheduled for the 4th of January 2016, please note that interested parties were timely notified on the date and place for the public hearing. Given

the short notice from your request and that all arrangements for the public hearing have already been finalised, we regret to advise that we are unable to move the date for the public hearing.

We look forward to seeing you at the public hearing in the NPG premises in Ohrid and receiving your comments through a constructive discussion.

Best Regards,

Zoran Veljanovski



Director, Public Institution National Park Galicica