

# Chapter 91

## Management and Utilisation of Natural Resources in Special Nature Reserves: A Case Study

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### ABSTRACT

*Special nature reserves are particularly regulated land areas designated for protection and utilization of natural resources at their disposal. In this chapter, the authors present a pioneering attempt to analyze management efficiency and utilization effectiveness of natural resources in protected nature reserves in Serbia based on an empirical research. Moreover, the authors explore the regulations that define the protection, management, and conservation of natural values and goods in Serbia, with a purpose of evaluating opportunities for development and implementation of Environmental Accounting (EA). EA is still at an early stage of development, especially from the standpoint of its incorporation into the developed standard models of company accounting. There still exist several unexplored problems to be solved at the level of national accounts, such as the expression of environmental damage, resource consumption, sustainable use of natural capital, evaluating environmental benefits, and free gifts of nature. The chapter is completed with a case study based on an empirical study in the field of environmental management in one protected area in Serbia, Zasavica.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

A historical context of allocating some geographical areas with all the amenities of natural resources in a special regime of protection has a long history. The first such area in the world delimited by state regulations for a special regime of protection and preservation in 1872 was The Yellowstone national park in the U.S. (US Congress, 1872, p. 392). This example later led many countries in the world to apply similar regulations. Hence, today there is almost no country that has not at least some area with natural values marked with the special protection regime. In Serbia there are several areas which are by special legislation defined and declared as special protected areas. Nature reserves have a special regime of protection and specific model for use of resources at their disposal. In this work we will analyze different aspects of conflict of interest and regulations that, in connection with the economic exploitation of resources on the one hand, and the ecological approach that limits the exploitation of resources in order to maintain the special natural values biodiversity and protected areas on the other side.

In the first part, we analyze normative aspects of natural values and natural resources, its utilization, and maintenance regimes of economically usable and unusable natural resources and values. A special aspect of the analysis in this paper is devoted to the limitations with regard to private, corporate and state property rights over the forest and land resources that are located within environmentally protected areas, since the regime of protected areas is largely diversified.

In the second part, we present protected areas in Serbia with respective management model for their utilization. Standard legal management model for specific protected areas in Serbia is based on an approach by which it is limited or even completely prohibited to extract natural resources that are allocated inside the protected area. Limiting the use of resources requires creation of the control model for the exploitation of resources and monitoring

process which tracks the quality of water, air, movement of plant populations and animal species at specific time intervals. Restricting private rights requires consideration of introduction of benefit models for the owners who refrain from the use of some economically valuable goods.

In the third part of the chapter, we analyze some aspects and features of incorporating environmental and economic results of monitoring in particular environmental accounting. Finally, we present the partial results of an empirical research in a form of a case study of the population living in the area in and around special nature reserve “Zasavica” in Serbia.

## **NORMATIVE ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND NATURAL VALUES IN SERBIA**

Legal protection of the environment and natural resources is a complex process that must be harmonized with international standards, recommendations and conventions (Dražković, 1998). Normative regulation of environmental protection is being harmonized with the recommendations and directives in European Union. Environmental law is placed in an international legal framework more than other areas of law. It has been established primarily due to the fact that a large number of environmental problems are both regional and global its character. The first aspect of its content and framework in Serbia's legislation in this area is determined by the membership of Serbia in the UN and relevant regulations embroidered by the acceptance of environmental protection. Especially significant are international aspects of accepting a standard regulations introduced by: the Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations on the Human Environment (United Nations, 1972), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (United Nations, 1992), the Aarhus convention (UNECE, 1998), the Convention on biological diversity (UNEP, 1992), etc.

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