

PERIURBAN

Component 4: Methodology Testing and Regional Action Plans

Action Plan

according to Component 4 general description

Project Partner	Vitosha Nature Park Directorate
Intervention Area (e.g. local, regional, specific park area)	Vitosha Nature Park (specific park area)

PART 1: OVERVIEW

Contact Details

Name of person responsible for Action	The Director of Vitosha Nature Park
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PART 2: ACTIONS

Action 1

Section 1: Common Methodology

Select the section(s) that are of particular interest for your Action Plan

	<i>Please insert an X if you are interested in the section</i>
Management / Relation to surrounding area	
Policy / Regulatory Aspects	
Environmental Aspects	x
Economic Aspects	x
Social and Communication Aspects	x
Cultural Aspects	x
Infrastructure / Accessibility	x

Section 2: Management

Provide details on the entity that will manage the Action. If more than 1 entity will be involved, repeat table for each.

Name of entity expected to manage the action	Vitosha Nature Park Directorate
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Name of department expected to manage action (if already known)	Vitoshka Nature Park Directorate (park administration)
Description of entity and of specific role in the management	<p>The Directorate of Vitoshka Nature Park is a unit of the Executive Forest Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods. As an administration, though under a different name, it has been operating since 1935, one year after Vitoshka was declared a protected territory. In 1996, by order of the Forestry Committee, the Administration of Vitoshka National Park was reorganized in 1998 by order of the National Forestry Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods into the Directorate of Vitoshka Nature Park in accordance with the categories of protected territories adopted by the Law for Protected Territories (published in State Gazette no. 133 on 11.11.1998). The Directorate of Vitoshka Nature Park maintains control and coordination in carrying out the park's Management Plan. The main priorities for its operation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting the diversity of the park's ecosystems and protection of the biological diversity in them; - Management and sustainable use of renewable natural resources; - Effective tourism management with preservation of biological and scenic diversity; - Providing opportunities for the development of scientific and educational activities; - Ensuring public support and development of partnerships in order to achieve the goals of the park.

Section 4: Overview of the Action proposed

Provide a brief description of the Action being proposed



Within the framework of the PERIURBAN Project Vitosha NP has completed an analysis of external good practices (from the PERIURBAN partners and the ones provided by FEDENATUR) and identified a total of 30 good practices that are relevant and applicable for Vitosha park. The distribution by topics of the 30 good practices is as follows:

Management / Relation to surrounding area – 3 GPs

Policy / Regulatory Aspects – 4 GPs

Environmental Aspects – 5 GPs

Infrastructure / Accessibility – 2 GPs

Social and Communication Aspects – 11 GPs

Cultural Aspects – 2 GPs

Economic Aspects – 3 GPs

All of the identified good practices will be proposed to be included in Chapter IV of the up-dated MP of Vitosha. In such a way they will become part of the priority activities to be implemented during the period of validity of the up-dated MP (2015 – 2025). There will be mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the MP, which will most probably take place 2020 and will assess the progress of the real implementation of the above mentioned activities.

In this document we describe 10 activities, which were designed on the basis of the good practices identified as applicable for Vitosha NP.

Provide an overview of the series of specific activities required in order to implement this Action

Repeat for each activity

Activity 1		
Title	Create connectivity between Vitosha NP and Sofia city	
Description	The action is focused on establishing connectivity between the park and Sofia – the capital city of Bulgaria. This will be done by investments in extension of existing/creation of new velo alleys and pedestrian routes and thus connecting the park and the urban area. Information and direction signs will be also put on selected places along the alleys.	
Target result / output	Extension of the specialised velo alley along Tzar Boris Str. Establish specialised pedestrian routes from the edge districts of Sofia in proximity	



	to the main Park entrances. Ensure proper information and direction signs along the routes.
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Activity 2	
Title	Enlargement of the territory of Vitosha NP and strengthening the ecological link between the park and the neighbouring urban areas
Description	This action is focused on ensuring environmental connections with the surrounded natural areas and creating a “green network”. This “green network” will contribute for better biodiversity and landscape protection.
Target result / output	Inclusion of Pine forest of Knyajevo in the territory of Nature Park Vitosha

Activity 3	
Title	The quarries of Vladaya and Marchaevo - new attraction for the visitors of Vitosha park
Description	<p>The stone quarries are not functioning anymore. The quarries can be rehabilitated and established as a new attraction for the visitors.</p> <p>The activity will include development of a technical project for restoration of the quarries and design for the exposition on site, as well as the real implementation (rehabilitation works). A business plan for the maintenance and exploitation of the new attraction place will be also developed.</p>
Target result / output	The quarries - established physically on site and open for visitors

Activity 4	
Title	Group of voluntary guards of Vitosha NP.
Description	<p>Based on the experience of the Regional Government of Lombardy, establish a group of voluntary guards for the territory of Vitosha NP.</p> <p>The activity will include: Adaptation of the Lombardian model to the Bulgarian conditions; Development of a training curricula for the volunteers; Implementing training for the voluntary guards; Initiate the necessary legal procedures to legalise this practice.</p>
Target result / output	Ensure presence of specialised voluntary guards on the territory of Vitosha NP; better control and safety of the visitors.

Activity 5



Title	Calendar of the events in Vitosha Nature Park
Description	This activity can improve the communication and participation of local citizens, administrations and users in different events that are taking place on the territory of the park. The schedule of the calendar will include all activities in the park for 6 months ahead. The calendar will be published on the web page of the park and every person can see the schedule.
Target result / output	Web-based calendar of event – updated on regular bases. Improved communication, increased interest on behalf of the general public; better information about forthcoming park events; increased coordination between various organisations.

Activity 6	
Title	Creation and maintenance of information points
Description	Creation of information points on proper places in proximity to the main Park entrances, or in the villages within the park, in public buildings, shops, or schools. The information points will serve as a channel for dissemination of park info materials such as brochures, flyers, posters, books, tourist maps, etc among the visitors.
Target result / output	At least 10 information points within the park. Visitors with access to park information materials.

Activity 7	
Title	Thematic trips for park visitors
Description	Development of interpretation manuals for specialised guides; Promotion of the thematic trips to the public; Implementation of thematic educational programme for the visitors, incl. guided tours, outdoor animation on specific topics (flora, fauna, rocks, cultural and historical objects, Karst area, old-growth trees, etc.), interpretation of biological and



	landscape diversity.
Target result / output	Increased awareness and knowledge of the park visitors about Vitosha, its biodiversity, landscape and cultural values. Manuals for min. 5 thematic trips developed; Park staff trained in animation and interpretation of biological diversity.

Activity 8	
Title	Workshop “Ideas for Vitosha”
Description	The workshops (on annual basis) will be attended by young people and students. All age groups can discuss and propose ideas about maintenance and management of park in view of biodiversity and landscape protection and promotion of park social functions. Could be in the form of competition among participants’ ideas and projects. Awards for the top 3 ideas will be provided.
Target result / output	Increased knowledge and support for the park. Provision of feedback Innovative tool for generation of new ideas and concepts by the young people.

Activity 9	
Title	Improving the access for disabled people
Description	Active involvement of disadvantaged groups is also promoted, with a focus on disabled people. Providing opportunities (adapted facilities, alleys, paths, special infrastructure, educational trails) for disabled people to be able to visit and enjoy the nature and outdoor activities. Initiation of integrated action plan for ensuring the access for disabled people.



	The action plan has to be done by park and organization of disabled people (associations, unions, etc.)
Target result / output	Action plan about ensuring access for disabled people on the territory of Vitosha NP developed.

Activity 10	
Title	Transfer of knowledge about Vitosha NP/Natura 2000 site from park experts to the foresters and guards from the relevant state forest/hunting enterprises operating on Vitosha
Description	Develop training materials and carry out trainings for employees of the forest and hunting enterprises working within the territory of Vitosha NP. The training should be focussed on specifics of Vitosha NP, being also a Natura 2000 site. Topics addressed should include: biodiversity and landscape importance, forest ecosystems, natural processes, visitors management, etc. Training sessions could be provided by the park staff administration to foresters.
Target result / output	Increase the knowledge of foresters and forest guards working on the territory of Vitosha NP about the park specifics and NATURA 2000 requirements. Better coordination and increased opportunities for joint collaboration between park administration and other entities within the forestry system (“down-top approach”).

Section 5: Stakeholder involvement

Provide an overview of all stakeholders that will be involved and the means of involving them

Please include political involvement (e.g. regional and or national administration, Managing authority) and Territorial Involvement (e.g. service providers and others involved in the practical creation and management of the park)



Name of stakeholder	Activities designed to involve stakeholder
Relevant State Authorities, e.g. Executive Forest Agency at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and its subdivisions	Meetings, invitation for joint projects, possible partnerships
State Forest and Hunting Enterprises operating on Vitosha Territory	Work meetings, training sessions, invitation for joint projects, possible partnerships
Municipal administrations	Meetings, invitation for joint projects, possible partnerships
Local schools, Universities, Academy and Research	Meetings, invitation for joint projects, possible partnerships
NGOs and civil society groups	Meetings, invitation for joint projects, possible partnerships

Section 7: Risk Management

Where possible, provide details of any potential risks to the implementation of the Action and relative contingency plans identified (for instance difficulties in obtaining necessary permissions or any legacies required e.g. for the extension of a park area).

Potential risk	Contingency plan
Financial risk	Careful planning of the budget
Political risk	The actions have to be planned for wider period of time
Influence of climate changes	The actions have to be planned for wider period of time

Section 8: Funding



*Where possible, provide an estimate of the expected costs for each specific activity and the possible sources of funding.
Repeat for each activity*

Activity 1			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount (in EUR)	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	1 500 000	Budget of Sofia municipality, European programmes	Come to an agreement between Vitosha NP Directorate and Sofia Municipality Develop and apply with a project proposal
Total	1 500 000		

Activity 2			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	N/A		Start a procedure for enlargement of Vitosha NP
Total	N/A		

Activity 3			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	250 000	EU funds and programmes	Develop and apply with a project proposal



Total	250 000		
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Activity 4			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	50 000	EU funds and programmes; Vitoshka NP budget from the state; other donors	Develop and apply with a project proposal Implement the necessary legal procedures
Total	50 000		

Activity 5			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	5000	OP Environment, Vitoshka NP budget from the state, other external donors	Develop and apply with a project proposal
Total			

Activity 6			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	500 for 1 informational point (a total of 10) 5 000 for	Budget of Vitoshka NP, European funds; municipal budgets	Develop and apply with a project proposal Initiate meetings with municipalities, NGOs, civil society groups, schools,



	informational materials		local businesses, etc.
Total	10 000		

Activity 7			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	10 000 per year	European funds and programmes (Operational programme Environment) Park budget from the state	Develop and apply with a project proposal
Total	10 000 per year		

Activity 8			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	2 500 per year	Budget of Vitosha NP ; EU Youth related programs; Other external donors	Develop and apply with a project proposal
Total	2 500 per year		

Activity 9			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	150 000	Budget of Vitosha NP, European programmes, other donors	Initiate meetings with organisations of disabled people;



			Develop and apply with a project proposal
Total	150 000		

Activity 10			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
	5 000 per year	Budget of Vitosha NP, European programmes; other donors	Initiate meetings with EFA; Develop and apply with a project proposal
Total	5 000 per year		

