

Strasbourg, 25 March 2015  
[files21e\_2015.docx]

**T-PVS/Files (2015) 21**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

35<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2015

---

**Other business**

**Protection of Ulcinj Saline**

**FOLLOW-UP GOVERNMENT REPORT**

*Document prepared by  
the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro*

---

*This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.  
Ce document ne sera plus distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire.*



MONTENEGRO

MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
AND TOURISM

**INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF PROTECTION OF ULCINJ SALINE, PLANNED  
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PLANNING DOCUMENTS  
RELATED TO THIS SITE**

**Spatial Plan of Montenegro until 2020** (herein referred to as: SPM), enacted by the Parliament of Montenegro ("Off. Gazette of Montenegro", no. 24/08) provides a strategic framework for the general spatial development of Montenegro until 2020, which will be realized by achieving the goals and principles set in sectoral planning documents and through detailed spatial planning in accordance with the identified development zones. Starting from the obligation to respect the planning hierarchy and compliance between plans established by the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction ("Off. Gazette of Montenegro", No. 51/08, 34/11, 35/13 and 33/14), local self-Governments are required to, when developing spatial plans of lower level, consistently implement guidelines and recommendations from the SPM.

The guidelines and recommendations for the preparation of local spatial and urban plans in the part related to the development sub-area Ulcinj, in the context of spatial development of tourism, among other things, as the potential for creation of the new tourism zones within the coastal area recognize military complexes and industrial zone, after cessation of activities in them. As one of these potential zones Ulcinj Saline is stated, primarily as a natural resource with a commitment that any form of potential tourism development should be carefully planned by respecting the principle of sustainable development. Potential tourism development has to be based on the valorization of natural resources (bird watching, tours around the nature reserve, etc.), and not on the degradation of this area through the construction of tourism facilities.

Pursuant to the above said, it is important to emphasize that the **Draft of Spatial Urban Plan of the municipality of Ulcinj (herein referred to as: SUP of the municipality of Ulcinj) is prepared, and it is aligned with the concept of spatial organization and use of space that is in the scope of the site of Ulcinj Saline defined in SPM.** Namely, the Draft of SUP of the municipality of Ulcinj, which divides the territory of Ulcinj municipality into 9 planning zones within which are defined narrow, interconnected areas where further development is planned, defines planning zone 3, which refers to Ulcinj Saline and the lower course of the river Bojana, measuring 3762 ha, which includes complex of Ulcinj Saline and the settlements: Gornji Štoj, Reč, Sutijel, Čurke i Sveti Djordje. **Area of the planning zone 3 includes factory for salt processing and surrounding environment of salt fields with the habitats of birds, which meets the criteria from the List of Wetlands of International Importance in accordance to the Ramsar Convention.** In other words, the Draft of SUP of the municipality of Ulcinj, for the site of Saline, under the planning zone 3, retains the existing purpose of salt production. The priority of development is the remediation and modernization of the factory for the production of salt, development of aquaculture, protection of the natural environment through the proclamation of the nature park, examination of natural resources, organization of scientific and educational tourism in the field of ornithology, organization of the activities of walking, sport and recreation. (see: Appendix I- Copy from the Draft of SPU of the municipality of Ulcinj - Plan of land use).

Draft of SPU of the municipality of Ulcinj defines guidelines for the **protection of the environment**, as well as of historical and cultural heritage, while in the part related to the protection of natural resources protection regimes are envisaged in the scope of the following locations: Beach Valdanos, part of the Big Beach, Little Beach, Ulcinj Saline, Isle of Old Ulcinj, individual trees and groups (dendrological facilities), with the special emphasis put on the protection of olive trees. Also, the Draft of SPU of the municipality of Ulcinj integrates zones of importance for the EMERALD network of protected areas: the river Bojana, Ada Bojana, Šasko Lake, Knete (7297ha), part of the Big Beach with Saline (2835 ha), Rumija (12221 ha), littoral reefs and rocky shore, particularly the hills Pinješ and Mendra.

It should be also noted that the Conclusion of the Government of Montenegro (from the session held on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2012) related to the necessity of Montenegro to respect the obligations arising from international conventions from the area of biodiversity on the site of Ulcinj Saline, from which it follows that this area cannot be urban construction land **is realized since the Draft SPU of the municipality of Ulcinj defines that the area of Ulcinj Saline retains the existing purpose of salt production, and is recognized as an area of exceptional natural beauty/landscape of special value** and proposed to be put under the protection. This is due to the fact that the important aspects for the status of the site of Ulcinj Saline as protected nature area are taken into account, starting from the obligations of Montenegro which arise from the following international conventions:

- **The National Biodiversity Strategy, which was adopted by the Government of Montenegro in July 2010** (based on the requirements of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity), in accordance with the SPM until 2020, proposes extension of the **network of protected natural areas by adding**, amongst others, also site of **Ulcinj Saline** with Knete and Ada Bojana, in the protection status - monument of nature.
- An analysis of the state of biodiversity in the framework of the implementation of the Program of Integrated Coastal Zone Management of Montenegro (CAMP CG), related to the implementation of the **Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention)** and its Protocols, determines that among the **areas in which the largest number of habitats of international importance occurs** there is **surrounding of Ulcinj**, with particular emphasis put on Big Beach and Ada Bojana. At the same time, **Ulcinj Saline** is very important site also from a point of view of the protection of halophyte vegetation that inhabits muddy-clayey surface.
- In the framework of the **IBA Program (internationally Important Bird Area)**, as an initiative on the global level that aims to identify and create a network of key areas for the protection of birds around the world, and which is also one of basis for the protection of European biodiversity, there is inventory that contains over 4000 IBA habitats, which covers about 7% of Europe. Montenegro has recognized 13 IBAs, while the 7 sites are defined as potential IBAs. The following sites in the coastal zone have been identified as IBAs: Delta of Bojana, Buljarica, Tivat Saline. In the **delta of Bojana, from a point of view of IBA program it is significant coverage of 1492 ha on the site of Ulcinj Saline.**
- **"EMERALD NETWORK"** is an ecological network consisting of areas of Special Conservation Interest at the European level. All signatories to the Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) are required to establish this network. In Montenegro, 32 sites are nominated as areas of Special Conservation Interest at the European level. In the coastal zone there are 7 sites, among which is the Big Beach with Ulcinj Saline in the coverage area of 2839.46 ha. (see: Appendix II-Nominated EMERALD sites in Montenegro).
- According to the analysis of vulnerability of the coastal zone of Montenegro in the framework of the Program of Integrated Coastal Zone Management of Montenegro (CAMP CG) starting from the provisions of the **Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention)** and the accompanying **Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean**, the site of Ulcinj Saline is characterized by high vulnerability from the point of view of the protection of biodiversity and very high vulnerability in terms of seismic.

In accordance with the above said **it can be concluded that the Draft of SPU of the municipality of Ulcinj for the site Ulcinj Saline preserves its current purpose of salt production,**

**and the site is recognized as an area of exceptional natural beauty/special landscape value.** In addition, pursuant to the Law on Nature Protection ("Off. Gazette of Montenegro", no. 51/08, 21/09, 40/11, 62/13, 06/14), the **Draft proposes to put under the protection the natural environment through the proclamation of the nature park, examination of natural resources, organization of scientific and educational tourism in the field of ornithology, organization of walking activities, sport and recreation. In other words, the existing purpose of this site has not been and would not be amended in the future planning documents.**

We use this opportunity to inform You that the finalization of the **Draft of Spatial Plan of Special Purpose for the Coastal Zone of Montenegro (SPSP for the coastal zone of Montenegro)** is ongoing. This Plan recognizes the site of Ulcinj Saline as a single location on the coast, within which the following sites are separated: saline (salt production), protection (ornithological reserve) and eco-tourism (specific eco resort). (see Appendix III - Copy from the Draft of SPSP for coastal zone of Montenegro - Plan of land use).

When creating all the above mentioned planning documents (SPM, Draft of SPU of the municipality of Ulcinj and Draft of SPSP for the coastal zone of Montenegro) due attention was paid to the environmental protection measures. In particular, for Ulcinj Saline the protection of habitats in wetland, which are of great importance for nesting and birds migration, is defined. The reason for this is the fact that out of approximately 500 species of European birds, in the area of Saline, 250 species are registered. ¼ of the total number of nesting birds of Montenegro are nested in Saline. Ulcinj Saline is also the most important nesting, wintering and resting place during migration of birds to the east Adriatic coast. It provides a service for a number of endangered species of fish, amphibians and reptiles, and to more than 70 species of birds from the Annex I of Birds Directive. Once again we emphasize that this is an area identified as IBA of international importance, then as potential Emerald habitat of the Bern Convention, and has been proposed for the inclusion on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Since Ulcinj Saline besides ecological value represents also a huge tourism potential, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism will, through the implementation of the Law on Nature Protection and the principles of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development Strategy (NSSD), which specifies that resources can be used only to the extent that does not endangers the biological and landscape diversity and functioning of the basic natural systems and processes, also in the future take care of the practical application of the principles of sustainable development. In addition, the Ministry has committed itself, through the implementation of international agreements and Conventions in the field of environment, to respect international obligations, as well as to continuously improve national policy in this area.

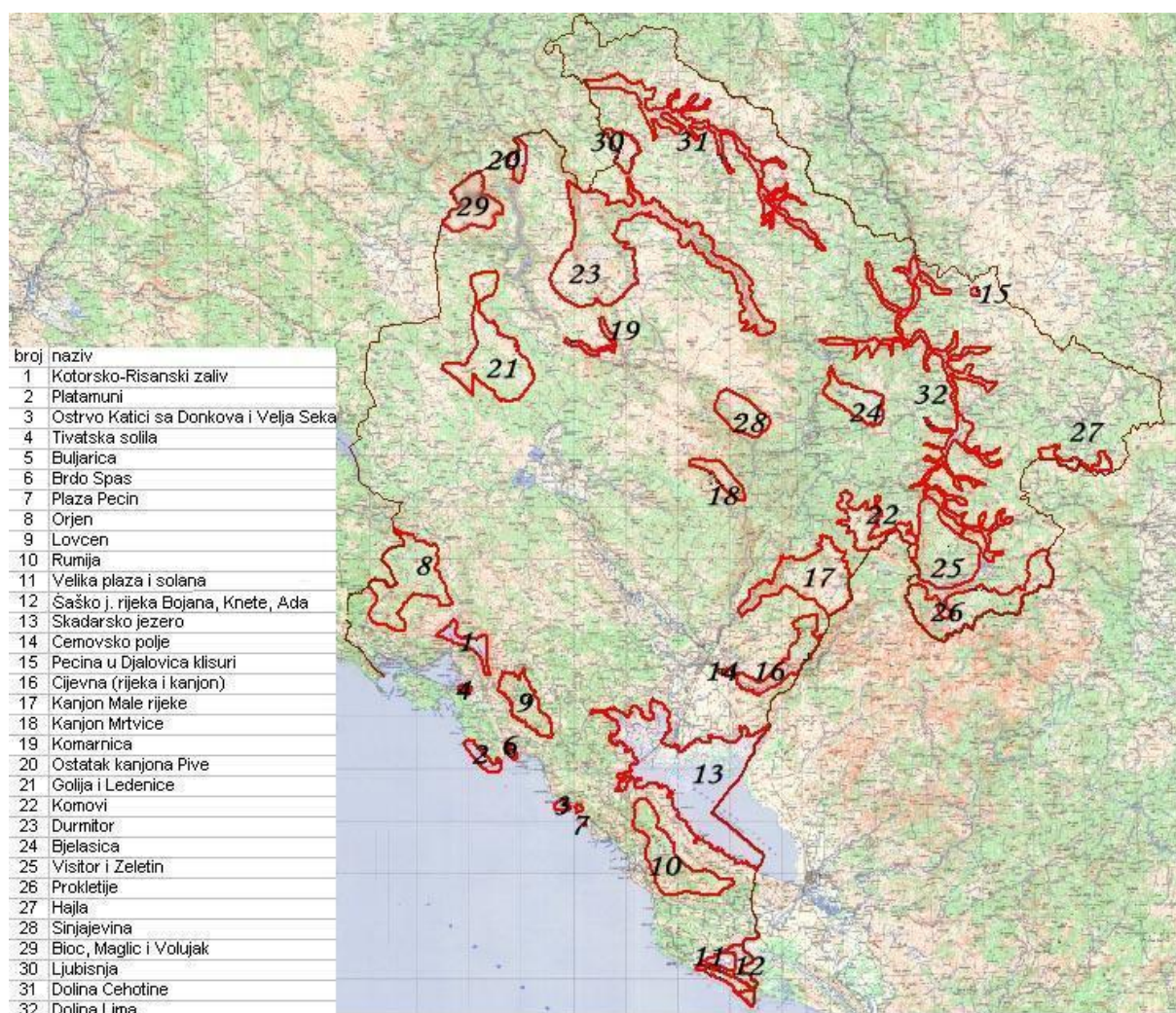
Finally, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, as the authority responsible for the protection of environment, in the future will continue to advocate for the preservation and valorization of natural resources of Montenegro, in a manner which will ensure the maximum compliance with legal procedures that protect the natural wealth of Montenegro. Here, first of all we point out the legal mechanism of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which evaluates direct and indirect impacts of proposed plans and projects in their preparation phase, e.g before making a final decision on the implementation.





## Appendix II

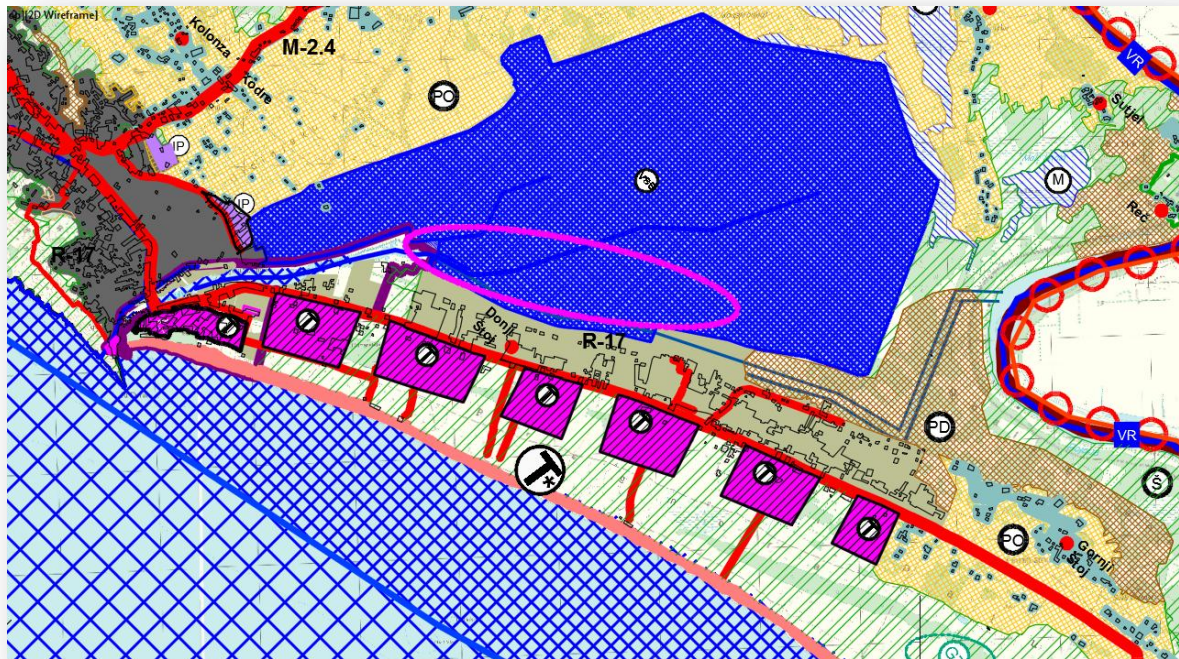
### Nominated Emerald sites in Montenegro

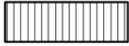











### Appendix III

#### Copy from the draft of SPSP for coastal zone of Montenegro - plan of land use



	Izdvojeno građevinsko zemljište posebne namjene
	Površine za turizam
	Površine za turizam - generalna/detaljna razrada
	Potencijalne lokacije za turizam ( bivše vojne lokacije)
	Lokacije za eko-turizam
	Površine za sport i rekreaciju
	Lokacije za golf terene (prema strategiji)
	Površine za industriju i proizvodnju (skladišta i servisi)