

# Joint Vision for a Transboundary Protected Area Sharr/Šar Planina – Korab

## 1. Preamble

The Sharr/ Šar Planina–Korab mountain range is a largely untouched natural landscape of outstanding beauty. It features many pristine postglacial lakes and is home to a remarkable variety of plants and animals. The rich cultural heritage reflected in the regional traditions inspires locals and aliens alike. The region is endowed with manifold natural resources that provide a huge potential for utilization and build the fundament of local communities' livelihoods and income.

The Sharr/ Šar Planina–Korab mountain range bears an exceptional potential for the development of gentle tourism.

Having regard to the aforementioned we express our sincere concern that the natural and cultural beauties are put in jeopardy through:

- Unsustainable Logging
- Unsustainable Harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Products
- Overexploitation of Wildlife Resources through Unsustainable Hunting Practices
- Illegal Construction
- Forest Fires
- Lack of Perspectives for the Younger Generation and Subsequent Emigration

## 2. Joint Vision

For the purpose of safeguarding a future for the region that is worth living for generations to come, we, the signatories, express our commitment to the development of a Transboundary Protected Area Sharr/ Šar Planina–Korab where Nature and People are equally respected. It is our express vision to achieve a joint sustainable development of the region across the borders and a wise and sustainable use of the natural resources that allows future generation to unfold.

The cornerstones of a sustainable development are:

- The Joint Development of a Gentle Tourism across Borders
- The Preservation of the Regional Natural and Cultural Heritage that makes Life in the Region attractive for the Younger Generation

- The Joint Promotion of the unique Natural and Cultural Heritage to the Outside World
- The Establishment of a Joint Management of the Region across Borders
- The Promotion of Co-operation among the People across Borders to provide the Fundament for a Living Together in Peace and Harmony
- Maintenance and Promotion of Traditional Agricultural Practices and Knowledge

Furthermore, we advocate strong and effective national protected areas as the backbone of a transboundary protected area Sharr/ Šar Planina – Korab. Protected area administrations should be equipped with sufficient personnel and financial resources to fulfill their tasks adequately.

We will strengthen cross-border cooperation on all levels by inviting each other to participate in cultural, scientific and sporting events.

Sharing experience and learning from each other are the basis for joint activities that we would like to carry out. The creation of a platform for exchange of experience and knowledge is needed to support this goal.

In order to study and promote the natural and cultural beauty of our region we advocate the creation of a network of transboundary hiking trails where researchers and visitors can move freely without barriers.

### 3. Sustainable Economic Development

The cornerstones of our vision for a sustainable economic development of the region are:

- To identify places of touristic value and create the necessary infrastructure and capacities to increase the benefit for the local communities.
- To improve the Marketing of Traditional Agricultural Products.
- To protect and promote the use of autochthonous livestock breeds.
- To identify possibilities and use the existing potential for the efficient production of green energy.

We are especially committed to the involvement of local communities in all stages of the joint development of a Transboundary Protected Area Sharr/ Šar Planina–Korab.

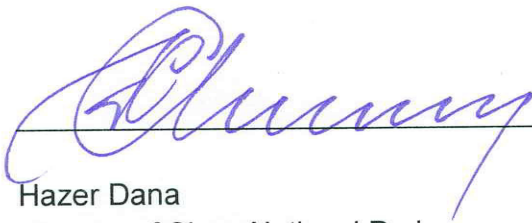
Brod, Dragash, 05 July 2013



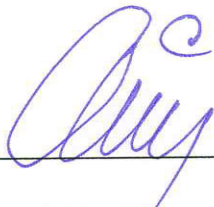
Salim Jenuzi  
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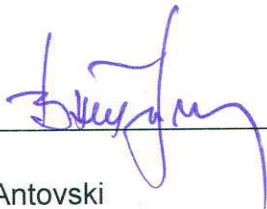
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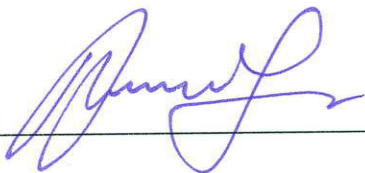
Vojislav Antovski  
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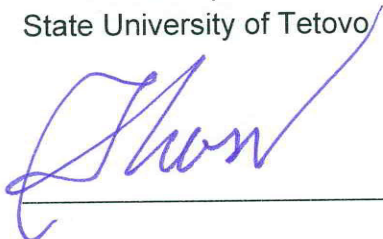
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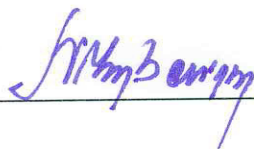
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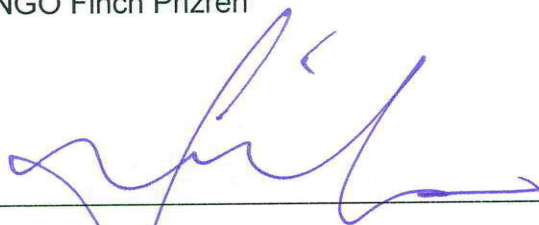


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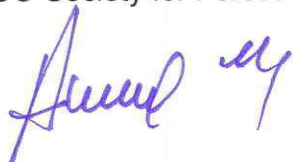
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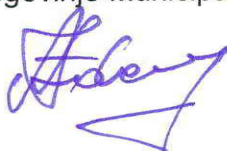
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