

BRIJUNI MARINE PROTECTED AREA**ZAVAROVANO MORSKO OBMOČJE BRIONI**

Sandro DUJMOVIĆ

ABSTRACT

Brijuni are a group of islands in the Adriatic Sea (Republic of Croatia), situated along the western coast of the southern peak of the Istrian Peninsula. In 1983, this area was declared a National Park; in 1984, it was open for visitors. The Brijuni Marine Protected Area (MPA) is listed as IUCN category II.

The MPA consists of 14 islands and islets and the surrounding sea, with a total area of 3,395 ha: the sea area covers 2,651.7 ha, the islands 743.3 ha (ca 80% sea and 20% land). The biggest islands are Veliki Brijun (561 ha) and Mali Brijun (108.85 ha). Total coastline length of all islands is 46.82 km, while the average sea depth oscillates between 35 and 40 m.

Brijuni National Park constitutes a unity of natural, historical and cultural heritage thanks to its geographical location, geological substratum and geomorphology, diversity of habitats and mild Mediterranean climate. The main characteristics of the Park are well preserved marine and terrestrial habitats, abundance and richness of species, both autochthonous and allochthonous, landscape parks with vast meadows and large solitary trees of holm oak (*Quercus ilex*), well preserved Mediterranean macchia and holm oak and laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) forests, geological and palaeontological finds, richness in archaeological and cultural-historical sites from different time periods (the Neolithic period up to the 20th century), etc.

The whole Park has been proposed, together with the western Istrian coast, as a potential Natura 2000 site under the European Union Habitats and Birds Directives.

IZVLEČEK

Brioni so skupina otokov vzdolž zahodne obale skrajnega južnega dela Istrskega polotoka v Jadranskem morju (Republika Hrvaška). Leta 1983 je bilo otočje razglašeno za narodni park, leta 1984 pa odprto za javnost. IUCN (Svetovna zveza za varstvo narave) je zavarovano morsko območje (ZMO) Brioni uvrstila v 2. kategorijo.

ZMO Brioni sestoji iz 14 otokov in otočkov z obdajajočim morjem s skupno površino 3.395 ha, od katerih morje pokriva 2.651 ha (80 %), otoki pa 743,3 ha (20 %). Največja otoka sta Veliki Brion (561 ha) in Mali Brion (108,85 ha). Skupna dolžina obale celotnega otočja je 46,82 km, medtem ko se povprečna globina obdajajočega morja suče med 35 in 40 m.

Narodni park Brioni je območje pomembne naravne, zgodovinske in kulturne dediščine po zaslugi njegove geografske lege, geološke podlage in geomorfologije, pestrosti habitatov in milega sredozemskega podnebja. Poglavitne značilnosti parka so dobro ohranjeni morski in kopenski habitati, veliko število in bogastvo vrst (tako avtohtonih kot alohtonih), krajinski parki s prostranimi travniki in visokimi samotarskimi črnimi hrasti (*Quercus ilex*), dobro ohranjena sredozemska makija, gozdovi črnega hrasta in lorvorja (*Laurus nobilis*), geološke in paleontološke najdbe, bogastvo arheoloških in kulturno-zgodovinskih najdišč iz različnih obdobj (od neolitika to 20. stoletja), itd.

Na osnovi Habitatne in ptičje direktive EU je bil celotni park, skupaj z zahodno istrsko obalo, razglašen za potencialno območje Natura 2000.

Sandro DUJMOVIĆ
Brijuni National Park,
Brijunska 10,
52212 Fažana, Croatia
s.dujmovic@brijuni.hr