
STATUTE

OF DRUŠTVO ZA OPAZOVANJE IN PROUČEVANJE PTIC SLOVENIJE

CONSOLIDATED TEXT, 2014

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The name of the Society is "Društvo za opazovanje in proučevanje ptic Slovenije", hereinafter referred to as "the Society". For communication purposes and to increase its visibility in the media and the general public, the Society is referred to in an abbreviated format as DOPPS. The international name of the Society shall be "DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia".

The seat of the Society is in Ljubljana, on Tržaška cesta 2.

The Society's seal shall be round, measuring 30 mm in diameter, bearing the full name and address of the Society and the Society's logo.

Article 2

The Society is a voluntary association of individuals who pool their interests, efforts and resources to work in the field of ornithology and nature conservation.

The Society is the lead national ornithological association that operates throughout the territory of the Republic of Slovenia and participates in international ornithological and conservation organisations.

The Society is the Slovenian partner of BirdLife, the global partnership of national non-governmental organisations for the conservation of birds.

II. AIMS AND TASKS

Article 3

We are working for the protection of birds and their habitats thus contributing to conservation of nature and welfare of society.

Article 4

In the context of its non-profit activity, the Society fulfils the following five organizational tasks:

- **General activities:** organising lectures, seminars, trips, excursions, and popular research activities; holding social gatherings and research camps; natural science photography; publishing and disseminating diverse informational material, providing professional literature and work resources;
- **Conservation:** species protection; habitat protection; area protection; general conservation activities; management of protected areas and corresponding infrastructure; conservation management; nature conservation farming activities, general educational activities related to natural sciences and ornithology;
- **Scientific research:** carrying out expert and research tasks related to ornithology and nature protection; organising scientific meetings; writing scientific and academic articles, studies and assessments; running a library;
- **Public relations and publications:** editing and publishing the Society's *Svet ptic* magazine, the *Acrocephalus* journal, as well as other publications on the Society's activities in printed or electronic format; publishing other materials related to the Society's activities;
- **Education:** holding lectures and seminars; organising training courses and other professional meetings and conferences; youth education; participating in the preparation of curricular and extra-curricular programmes.

In all fields of activity, the Society cooperates and liaises with related organisations at the national and international levels.

Article 4.a

In addition to its core, non-profit activity, the Society may also perform profit-making activities for the purposes of achieving the aims and tasks laid down in Articles 3 and 4 of the Statute. These activities are listed in Appendix 1 of the Statute alongside the codes according to the Decree on the Standard Classification of Activities.

Article 5

For the purpose of conducting its activities, the Society may hold movable and immovable property, as well as other assets made available to the Society under the law and this Statute.

The Society may employ the required number of persons to perform various tasks.

III. PUBLIC NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Article 6

The Society's operations are public in nature.

The Society informs its members through the Society's publications.

The Society informs the general public through mass media and the Society's publications.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

Article 7

Membership of the Society is available to residents of the Republic of Slovenia and residents of other countries under the same conditions, in the manner laid down in this Statute.

Article 8

There are two classes of members, namely: Regular and Honorary.

Regular membership is conferred upon any person who submits an application for membership and, by so doing, agrees to comply with the provisions of the Statute and other rules of the Society and to abide by the Code of Slovenian Ornithologists.

Honorary Member is a member who has made a significant contribution to the development and progress of ornithology and the protection of birds and nature in Slovenia. The resolution to elect a person as an Honorary Member is adopted by the Management Board (MB). The rights and duties of Honorary Members are equal to the rights and duties of Regular Members except that they are exempt from paying annual dues.

Article 9

The written application for membership, submitted by the candidate to the seat of the Society, shall be considered by the MB. The MB may reject an application for membership provided the applicant has committed a grave violation against the Code of Slovenian Ornithologists.

The MB is required to state in writing the reasons for the rejection of the application for membership within 45 days. The applicant can appeal the decision within 30 days from its receipt by filing a request that his or her application for membership be considered by the Supervisory Board.

Article 10

Membership in the Society is not compatible with the following:

- killing of birds, destroying their nests and taking eggs from nests; illegal and uncontrolled keeping of birds in captivity; trading in live or dead birds and their eggs;
- conscious destruction of habitats of threatened bird species, and giving consent to such actions;
- practising falconry as a form of hunting.

Threatened species are all species listed on Slovenia's Red List Index for Birds, which is adopted by the Management Board.

Article 11

Members have a right to:

- attend and actively participate in the General Assembly and other Society events, pass motions, make proposals, comments, critiques, praises, requests and complaints;
- vote and be elected into the bodies of the Society;
- carry out projects related to the Society's tasks, as specified in Article 4 of the Statute, upon the consent from the Management Board and under the auspices of the Society;
- set forth matters to be discussed at Management Board meetings;
- represent the interests of the Society, safeguard the reputation of the Society and display the Society's logo and insignia.

Members have a duty to:

- pay the annual membership dues,
- follow the Statute and other Society's acts,
- act in accordance with the Code of Slovenian Ornithologists.

Article 12

Membership in the Society ceases with:

- voluntary resignation from the Society,
- suspension from the Society following a resolution by the Supervisory Board,
- death,
- termination of membership due to non-payment of membership dues after the third reminder,
- dissolution of the Society.

V. BODIES OF THE SOCIETY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 13

The highest body of the Society is the General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as the "Assembly"). The Assembly is composed of all interested members of the Society.

The Assembly shall be held at least once every year. It may be convened by the President and/or the Management Board of the Society.

A written notice of the Assembly shall be sent to every member of the Society. The Assembly shall reach a quorum if the members of the Society have received written notice at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Quorum is constituted by 51 per cent of votes of the members present in person, and by 66 per cent if the issue transacted is an amendment to the Statute.

The MB is obligated to convene the Assembly in the period of 45 days if so requested by a group of members. The request must be signed by a minimum of 50 members.

The proceeds and resolutions of the Assembly are recorded in the meeting minutes which are stored in the Society's archive. The minutes-taker and two persons to verify the minutes shall be elected by the Assembly.

Article 14

The Assembly's duties and responsibilities are to:

- adopt the Statute and amendments to the Statute;
- elect and relieve members of Society's bodies, except when stated otherwise in the Statute;
- adopt the annual report of the Supervisory Board;
- decide on the dissolution of the Society;
- make, on the proposal of the Management Board, generally important decisions and adopt standpoints regarding ornithology and bird protection in Slovenia.

GOVERNING BODIES OF THE SOCIETY

Article 15

The governing bodies of the Society are:

- President,
- Vice-President,
- Management Board,
- Supervisory Board.

Article 16

The term of office of all governing bodies of the Society shall be two years. Unless otherwise provided in the Statute, members of governing bodies shall be elected by the Assembly. The members of the governing bodies to be elected by the Assembly shall be nominated by MB or at least 30 members of the Society who endorse these candidacies with their signatures.

Article 17

Only those members of the Society who have actively participated in the Society's operations and projects, and have made a significant contribution toward achieving the aims and tasks of the Society, are eligible for candidacy in the governing bodies of the Society.

The Supervisory Board is responsible for verifying whether the candidates fulfil the conditions laid down in this Article. The Supervisory Board shall evaluate all the candidates and report the findings to the Assembly before the elections. The Assembly may not vote on a person whose candidacy has not been approved by the Supervisory Board.

When the President or Vice-President resigns from his or her position prior to the expiration of term of office, the MB shall elect an Acting President or Vice-President for the period up to the next Assembly.

Article 18

The President, Vice-President and members of the Supervisory Board may not be employed by the Society, except for the employees' representative on the MB.

MANAGEMENT BOARD (MB)

Article 19

The duty and responsibility of the Management Board is to manage the Society. The MB holds the power to make all decisions except for those reserved for the Assembly and the Supervisory Board under this Statute.

After the Assembly, the MB is the highest governing body of the Society. All working bodies and sections of the Society are answerable to the MB.

The MB shall be composed of a maximum of 10 Regular Members, elected by the Assembly. The members, in the context of their function, consist of the President and Vice-President of the Society, a representative of the regional sec-

tions and a representative of the employees of the Society's Central Office.

The MB shall act and decide in its meetings, called by the President of the Society. The MB meeting has a quorum when at least seven members are present in person. The quorum is constituted by 51 per cent of votes of the members present in person. If the vote is a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

Every member of the Society may propose an item to be transacted at the meeting; the MB is obliged to discuss the matter within a period not longer than 3 months.

A member of the MB who fails to attend more than two thirds of meetings in a given year shall cease to be a member of the MB upon a resolution to that effect being passed by the MB at the first meeting in the new business year.

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY

Article 20

The President's duties and responsibilities are to:

- represent the Society,
- be accountable for the legal operations of the Society and its bodies, except for the operations of the Central Office,
- be responsible for the concept and contents of the Society's operations,
- run the operations of the Society in accordance with the mission of the Society and the resolutions of the MB,
- represent the Society and sign relevant documents,
- organise and chair the Assembly,
- call the meetings of the MB.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Article 21

The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

SUPERVISORY BOARD (SB)

Article 22

The Supervisory Board is composed of the President and three members. Three members of the SB present at a meeting constitute a quorum. The SB has the right to check the records and documents of all Society bodies. It shall be responsible only to the Assembly, for which it prepares reports in accordance with its respective powers.

The duties of the SB are to:

- supervise the compliance of work of the Society's governing bodies with the Statute, the Code and the interest of the Society,
- verify whether the candidates for the positions in the Society's governing bodies fulfil the conditions laid down in this Statute,
- supervise allocation of funds of the Society,
- resolve disputes among members and disputes between members and the Society's bodies,
- decide on termination of membership and other measures taken against members who violate the Statute, the Code of Slovenian Ornithologists, or act contrary to the interests of the Society.

The SB shall annually pass an opinion as to whether the funds generated through profit-making activities were used wisely and for the aims of the Society and the non-profit tasks specified in Article 4 of this Statute.

The SB holds no executive powers; it is obliged to report its findings to the Assembly.

WORKING BODIES OF THE SOCIETY

Article 23

With a view to meeting the aims and tasks of the Society, the MB shall establish the working bodies of the Society. The MB shall adopt the rules for their operation and appoint their lea-

ders. When necessary, the MB shall also appoint members of working bodies.

The working bodies of the Society may include the following:

- Nature Conservation Board,
- Research Board,
- editor of *Acrocephalus*,
- Editorial Board of *Acrocephalus*,
- Education Board,
- committees,
- actions coordinators,
- working bodies and task forces,
- enterprises, institutes and foundations set up by the Society for the purposes of operations,
- management bodies of ornithology reserves and protected areas,
- Director of the Society.

The Central Office of the Society is the only working body of the Society that is directly responsible to the Director. All other working bodies are under the authority of the MB. The MB may transfer its management powers over other working bodies to the Director of the Society.

CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY

Article 23.a

The Central Office is a professional working body of the Society. It is composed of all persons employed by the Society. The Central Office is under the authority of the Director. The employees shall elect a representative who will represent their interests on the MB.

DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIETY

Article 23.b

The Director is a Society employee to whom the President transfers operational management of the Society. Only the President of the Society is directly superior to the Director, whereas the MB guides the work of the Director only through its resolutions. The Director shall be appointed for a term of four years or indefinitely. The number of consecutive terms is not limited.

The Director's duties are to:

- manage the Central Office and its employees,
- be accountable for the legality of the work and operations of the Central Office,
- carry out the tasks delegated by the President,
- enforce implementation of Council resolutions,
- make personnel decisions related to the Central Office in accordance with the MB,
- report to the President and the MB on work results of the Office.

A more detailed description of the tasks and duties of the Director is given in the job description of the Society's Director, as adopted by the MB.

VI. REGIONAL ORGANISATION

Article 24

For the purpose of regional operations the Society may establish branch offices and regional sections.

The branch office and regional sections of the Society are not independent legal entities.

BRANCH OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY

Article 24.a

The Society's branch offices are regional offices of the Central Office of the Society.

The branch offices shall operate under the authority of the governing bodies and the Director of the Society.

A branch office shall be established with an article of association adopted by the MB.

The MB also holds the power to terminate branch offices and adopt amendments to their Articles of Association. The provisions of this paragraph shall also apply to the branch office laid down in Article 24.b.

The Article of Association of the branch office defines the seat of the branch office and its aim of operations.

Article 24.b

For the purpose of managing the Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve and to promote the operations of the Society in the Coastal-Karst (Obalno-Kraška) region, a branch office of DOPPS shall be set up in Koper.

The seat of the DOPPS branch office in Koper shall be at Staničev trg 16, Koper.

REGIONAL SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

Article 24.c

On the regional level, members of the Society may organise into regional sections.

A regional section of the Society is a voluntary association of Society members in a given geographic area.

Regional sections of the Society operate in accordance with the mission and Statute of the Society and on the basis of the rules of the section.

A regional section of the Society may be established by no less than 10 members of the Society by adopting the rules of the section at the Founding Meeting.

Article 25

Regional sections shall be organised on a territorial basis; their respective areas of operation shall not overlap. The borders of the areas covered by regional sections coincide with the borders of municipalities.

A regional section may not cover an area smaller than 10 per cent of the total surface area of the Republic of Slovenia.

Due to exceptional circumstances and by way of a resolution and argumentation, the MB may decide otherwise regarding the condition for the establishment of a regional section from the second indent of this Article.

Article 26

The rules of regional sections shall necessarily contain the following items: 1. territorial classification, 2. bodies of the regional section, 3. procedure to elect the section representative to serve on the MB. The rules of the regional section must be approved by the MB.

Article 27

Membership in the regional section shall be automatic, depending on the residence of the member. Following a request, a member may be assigned membership in other regional sections or his or her membership may be terminated.

VII. YOUTH ORGANISATION

Article 28

The Society has an active Youth Section that connects all interested young DOPPS members. The Youth Section of DOPPS is the lead national youth organisation.

VIII. FUNDING OF THE SOCIETY

Article 29

Sources of funding of the Society include, above all:

- membership dues and subscription fees,
- grants and subsidies,
- sponsorships,
- donations,
- income from Society's assets,
- financial income,
- legacies,
- gifts and other occasional sources,
- income from profit-making activities,
- income from material rights of the Society.

Article 30

Property of the Society shall be managed by the MB.

Article 31

The Society's financial operations shall be managed by the Director in accordance with the Slovenian Accounting Standards for Societies. Coordination of financial operations with the budget shall be decided by the MB.

The Director shall report to the MB on the financial operations of the Society.

Conduct of financial operations of the Society is defined in more detail in the Rules of Financial Operations of DOPPS, which shall be adopted by the MB.

The business year of the Society shall be identical with the calendar year.

If the Society creates a surplus of revenues over expenses, these have to be used for the implementation of activities for which it has been established.

The Society shall hold a giro account with an authorised financial institution.

Article 32

For the purposes of fulfilling the aims and tasks of the Society, ensuring efficient operations and carrying out profit-making activities, the Society may establish one or more commercial companies or organisations of other legal status, where expressly authorised by the law.

The supervision over the management of the newly established entities as well as their rights and obligations shall be stated in more detail in the Articles of Association or other acts of the new organisations.

IX. DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

Article 33

The Society may be dissolved:

- by a resolution of the Assembly, passed by a two-third majority of its members,
- by a decree of a competent authority in accordance with the legislation,
- if membership falls below 10 members.

A decree of dissolution shall also determine the division of the Society's property. If the Assembly does not decide otherwise, the Society's assets shall be transferred to other ornithological and nature conservation societies.

X. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 34

This consolidated text of the Statute includes the following:

- *The Statute adopted at the regular annual General Assembly held on 31 March 2001 in Ljubljana,*
- *Annex 1 to the Statute of the Society, adopted at the General Assembly held on 1 July 2002 in Ljubljana,*
- *Annex 2 to the Statute of the Society, adopted at the General Assembly held on 18 June 2003 in Ljubljana,*
- *Annex 3 to the Statute of the Society, adopted at the General Assembly held on 27 March 2004 in Ljubljana,*
- *Annex 4 to the Statute of the Society, adopted at the General Assembly held on 14 April 2005 in Ljubljana,*
and
- *Annex 5 to the Statute of the Society, adopted at the General Assembly held on 21 April 2007 in Ljubljana.*
- *Annex 6 to the Statute of the Society, adopted at the General Assembly held on 12 March 2010 in Ljubljana.*
- *Annex 7 to the Statute of the Society, adopted at the General Assembly held on 5 April 2013 in Ljubljana.*
- *Annex 8 to the Statute of the Society, adopted at the General Assembly held on 28 March 2014 in Ljubljana.*

Rudolf Tekavčič
DOPPS President

Appendix 1

Code according to the Standard Classification of Activities – SKD 2008*	Descriptor	Examples of profit-making activity
A01.110	Growing of cereals (except rice), leguminous crops and oil seeds	Growing of these crops for sale, where appropriate in terms of conservation, and supporting sustainable agriculture
A01.130	Growing of vegetables and melons, roots and tubers	Growing of these crops for sale, where appropriate in terms of conservation, and supporting sustainable agriculture
A01.240	Growing of pome fruits and stone fruits	Growing of pome fruits and stone fruits for sale, where appropriate in terms of conservation, and supporting sustainable agriculture
A01.250	Growing of other tree and bush fruits and nuts	Growing of other tree and bush fruits and nuts, where appropriate in terms of conservation, and supporting sustainable agriculture
A01.270	Growing of beverage crops	Growing of plants, suitable for the preparation of herbal teas, juices and similar beverages, where appropriate in terms of conservation, and supporting sustainable agriculture
A01.280	Growing of spices, aromatic, drug and pharmaceutical crops	Growing of suitable plants, where appropriate in terms of conservation, and supporting sustainable agriculture
A01.410	Raising of dairy cattle	Production of cow and buffalo milk, supporting sustainable agriculture
A01.420	Raising of other cattle and buffaloes	Selling of excess numbers of cattle for managing reserves
A01.430	Raising of horses and other equines	Selling of excess numbers of horses for managing reserves
A01.450	Raising of sheep and goats	Selling of excess numbers of sheep and goats for managing reserves
A01.490	Raising of other animals	Production of honey and beeswax
A01.610	Support activities for crop production	Renting of agricultural machinery when it is not needed for managing reserves, with personnel
C10.320	Manufacture of fruit and vegetable juice	Processing of fruit and elder into juices, syrups, introducing conservation products
C10.390	Other processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables	Preparation of marmalades, jams, compotes, preserved and dried products, introducing conservation products
C10.510	Operation of dairies and cheese making	Production of dairy products, e.g. cheese, cottage cheese, yogurt, introducing conservation products
C10.830	Processing of tea and coffee	Production and packaging of herbal teas, introducing conservation products
C10.890	Manufacture of other food products n.e.c.	Production of honey products, introducing conservation products
C16.290	Manufacture of other products of wood, manufacture of articles of cork, straw and plaiting materials	Manufacture of wooden nesting boxes and bird feeders, processing of waste wood mass from reserves into pellets, making of baskets and similar plaited reed products, introducing conservation products
G47.190	Other retail sale in non-specialised stores	Retail in information centres and offices offering various goods (souvenirs, products intended for bird aid, ornithological resources and instruments, refreshments/food products not dominating)
G47.810	Trgovina na drobno na stojnicah in tržnicah z živili, pijačami in tobačnimi izdelki	Retail, via stalls and markets, of products such as honey, tea, cheese (excluding food for immediate consumption), marketing conservation products
G47.890	Retail sale via stalls and markets of other goods	Retail, via stalls and markets, of products such as books, publications, promotional products, marketing conservation products
G47.910	Retail sale via mail order houses or via	Sales of all DOPPS products via the internet, marke-

	Internet	ting conservation products
G47.990	Other retail sale not in stores, stalls or markets	Sales via vending machines in information centres, marketing conservation products
I55.204	Mountain refuges and youth hostels	(Occasional) renting of beds in information centres (with limited offer)
I55.300	Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks	Renting of space for tents, trailers, mobile homes or similar mobile facilities for a short period of time on the outskirts of reserves
I56.102	Snack bars and similar	Sales of prepared (packaged) meals and beverages in the snack bars of information centres
I56.300	Beverage serving activities	Preparing and serving of hot drinks in information centres
J58.110	Book publishing	Publishing of books, brochures, as well as e-books
J58.140	Publishing of journals and periodicals	<i>Svet ptic, Acrocephalus</i>
J58.190	Other publishing activities	Postcards, greeting cards, posters, calendars
J58.210	Publishing of computer games	Bird-, habitat- and conservation-themed computer games
J58.290	Other software publishing	Bird- and reserve-themed mobile device applications
L68.200	Renting and operating of own or leased real estate	Leasing of real estate, e.g. offices and lecture rooms in information centres in times of few visitors
L68.320	Management of real estate on a fee or contract basis	Contractual part of managing nature reserves and other important bird areas
M70.220	Business and other management consultancy activities	Consulting, guidance and operational assistance in business matters and public services in the fields of nature and bird conservation
M72.190	Other research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering	Research in the fields of ornithology, ecology, biology
M74.900	Other professional, scientific and technical activities n.e.c.	Consulting in the fields of ecology, agronomy, forestry
N77.310	Renting and leasing of agricultural machinery and equipment	Renting of agricultural machinery when it is not needed for managing reserves, without personnel
N82.300	Organisation of conventions and trade shows	Organisation of billable events (fee)
P85.590	Other education n.e.c.	Education of persons outside of the regular education system, adult education, field lessons
R91.040	Botanical and zoological gardens and nature reserves activities	Activities in protected areas, nature reserves, protection and management of these areas
R93.299	Other amusement and recreation activities n.e.c.	Organisation of performances and other events (actions, lectures, trips and excursions)

*Source: Decree on the Standard Classification of Activities – Appendix I: Standard Classification of Activities – SKD 2008; Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 69/2007, 17/2008.