

Pursuant to Article 16 paragraph 2 and Article 23 paragraph 1 item 1, and in conjunction with Article 3 paragraph 1 item 5 and Article 18, all of the Law on Associations and Foundations (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 52/2010, 135/2011 and 55/2016), and in accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Macedonian Ecological Society from Skopje, the Center for Education and Development from Tearce, the Mountaineering Club "Luboten" from Tetovo and the Citizens' Integration Initiative from Gostivar, the Friends of Shar Mountain Platform, which represents an association of independent citizens' associations and individuals was established at the Constituent Assembly of the Platform held on the day of 27.02.2020, and adopted the following:

S t a t u t e

of the "Friends of Shar Mountain" Platform

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This statute defines: name, headquarters, goals and activities, organizational set-up, functioning, and funding of the "Friends of Shar Mountain" Platform, hereinafter referred to as the Platform only.

Article 2

(1) **The Platform was established by these legal entities:** Macedonian Ecological Society (MES), Center for Education and Development (CED), Mountaineering Club "Luboten" and Civic Integration Initiative, Gostivar (IGI), and it is a non-partisan, non-governmental and non-profit voluntary association, indefinite in terms of time and on equal basis.

(2) **The name of the Platform is: "Friends of Shar Mountain".**

(3) **Information Office - The Platform's headquarters** are located in the offices of the Education and Development Center (TED) in Tearce, old school building 1224 Tearce

Article 3

(1) **"Friends of Shar Mountain"** will always appear in public united with their logo (with a Shar Mountain blue-green motif underlying the text: IIIapa-Sharri) as well as with the mission and vision statement of the Platform.

(2) Members of the “Friends of Shar Mountain” may promote the idea and the mission of this Platform, in public events but always with pre-defined promotional materials and with prior consultation of the other founding members and the public relations officer within this Platform.

OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE PLATFORM

Article 4

(1) **The objective** of the Platform is to promote and support the initiative of proclaiming Shar Mountain a National Park, respectively to preserve the nature of Shar Mountain and the proper use of natural resources.

(2) This Platform is not intended to develop its own economic interests. All funds are intended solely for fulfilling the statutory objective.

Article 5

(1) The tasks of the Platform are as follows:

a) to support the process of proclaiming Shar Mountain a National Park,

b) to support the work of the future National Park in carrying out its tasks in the field of nature conservation, environmental education, rural tourism and other alternative forms of tourism, public relations and the organization of recreational activities; to research and to document,

c) raise public awareness of the benefits that the local population can derive from proclaiming Shar Mountain a National Park;

d) to connect Shar Mountain with the regional ecological network and

e) improve the co-operation with other large protected areas, nature conservation stakeholders, organizations and associations in and out of the country as well as networks of organizations of similar activities.

(2) The tasks relate to the organization of public, cultural and scientific events, which are related to the environment, landscapes, nature protection and species protection through the provision of expert advice, tourism and rural development, logistic support for events related to environmental education, practical advice on nature conservation measures as well as the preparation and distribution of educational materials and publications from the Platform's work.

MEMBERSHIP

Article 6

(1) Natural persons and legal entities as well as civil society organizations and associations from Macedonia and abroad may become equal members of the Platform as long as it is in accordance with the Platform's primary objective.

(2) Legal entities - domestic or foreign, as well as civil society organizations registered in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations, which wish to access the Platform shall meet **the following criteria:**

- to be registered and work in municipalities located on the territory of Shar Mountain.

- to have at least 3 (three) years of experience in implementing nature conservation projects in the Republic of North Macedonia or in the country where they are registered.

- to have fulfilled their obligations and have not taken any actions contrary to the principles of publicity and transparency in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 16, 18 and 23 of the Law on Associations and Foundations.

- to have at least two employees under permanent employment contract in the organization.

- active list of volunteer members.

- to have experience in organizing public events during their work.

- to have publicly and transparently published and presented reports on the financial performance of the organization in the last three years.

- to have the technical and human capacity to implement future joint projects.

- decisions on their work to be adopted in accordance with Article 11 of the Law on Associations and Foundations.

- there is no conflict of interest with the previous activities carried out by the approaching person, i.e. they do not violate public order and the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia.

METHOD FOR ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP, EXCLUSION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION

Article 8

(1) Admission of members shall be done by a written request (application form), which is to be submitted to the office of the “Friends of Shar Mountain” Platform.

(2) Upon receipt of the written request for access to the Platform, the Management Board shall schedule a meeting to decide whether legal entities - domestic or foreign, as well as civil society organizations registered in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations, meet the criteria for membership in the Platform.

(3) If, at the meeting, the Management Board determines that criteria for membership in the Platform have been met, it shall notify the new member in writing thereof.

(4) The Management Board shall have the right to refuse the application for membership if it considers that the approaching member will harm Platform's reputation and work.

(5) The Management Board shall notify the acceding member in writing of such decision without giving any reasons for the decision.

Article 9

(1) After a decision has been made, at a meeting of the Management Board to accept a new member, the legal entity or the civil society organization shall access the Platform with limited rights and obligations.

(2) The new member shall have the status of a full member of the Platform 3 (three) years after its admission, if during that period has actively participated with its full capacity in the joint activities and projects of the Platform.

(3) The Management Board shall verify the work of the new members and, after the expiry of the verification period, shall decide at a meeting whether the new member has fulfilled all the criteria for obtaining full membership to the Platform.

(4) If the new member fails to fulfill the obligations during the period of review, the Management Board reserves the right to exclude the new member from the membership in order not to harm the reputation, objective and tasks of the Platform.

(5) Prior to exclusion, the new member shall have the right to express or submit its allegations in front the Management Board in writing or orally.

(6) The new member shall acquire the right to vote after the Management Board adopts the decision that criteria for admission as a Platform permanent member have been fulfilled.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE NEW MEMBERS

Article 10

(1) The new member of the Platform has the following rights:

- continuous education on Platform work,
- networking with Platform members and the opportunity for joint activities and cooperation,
- implementation of activities within the Platform under the supervision of the Platform's Management Board, and
- participation in the lobbying process.

(2) The new member of the Platform has the following obligations.

- to respect the objectives and tasks of the Platform and always have them as a starting point them in its operation,
- participate in joint projects with its technical and human capacity for the needs of such projects,
- to timely and as a good host implement the assigned activities and projects within the set timeframe,
- to periodically submit reports to the Management Board on the implemented activities,
- to timely seek technical and human assistance for the needs of the assigned activities and the implementation of joint projects; and
- not to violate the Statute, the Rulebook and the Program of the Platform as well as the Constitution, the Laws and the ratified International Treaties.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PERMANENT MEMBERS

Article 11

(1) The rights of permanent members of the Platform are the following:

- to participate in the ongoing activities of the Platform,
- to jointly or independently implement projects in the Platform,
- to act in public for the purposes and tasks of the Platform,
- to participate in decision-making on the Platform's current operations, and
- to be elected as members of the Management Board of the Platform.

(2) The obligations of the permanent members of the Platform are the following:

- to respect the objectives and tasks of the Platform, and to always have them as the starting point in their work,
- to participate in joint projects with their technical and human capacity for the needs of such projects,
- to timely and responsibly implement assigned activities and projects within the specified time frame,
- to periodically report to the Management Board on the activities carried out,
- to timely seek technical and human assistance for the needs of the assigned activities and the implementation of joint projects, and
- not to violate the Statute, the Rulebook and the Program of the Platform as well as the Constitution, laws and ratified international treaties.

(3) If the permanent member fails to perform the duties while performing joint activities or projects on the Platform, the Management Board shall have the right to notify the permanent member in writing of the irregularities in the operation and to give him/her a deadline within which to remove them, and to follow the instructions.

(4) After the given written deadline, the permanent member shall be obliged to submit to the Management Board a written report on the activities undertaken after the warning.

(5) If the Management Board decides that the permanent member has not acted in accordance with the written warning and instructions thereon, the Management Board shall be entitled to exclude the member from further activities and projects carried out on the Platform, as well as from the activity and project that have currently been carried out by that member at the moment the irregularities in the work have been confirmed, and to appoint another permanent member to take over the work in the project or activity for the smooth running and fulfillment of the Platform's objectives and tasks.

Article 12

(1) Members should strive to meet the Platform's objectives and tasks within the Platform.

(2) Natural persons may be awarded the title of honorary member, upon a decision by the founding members of the Platform.

(3) All permanent members of the Platform are equal.

(4) All members have the right equally with the other members to participate in the realization of the Platform's objectives and to be timely and fully informed of the work and activities of the Platform.

(5) Every legal entity and natural person, as well as an informal group that is A PERMANENT MEMBER of the Platform, shall have one vote in the decision-making bodies of the Platform.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Article 13

(1) **The organs of the Platform are:**

- General Assembly
- Management Board and
- President.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 14

(1) The General Assembly is the highest authority of the Platform, and it includes all members of the Platform,.

(2) A meeting of the members shall be organized once a year at which appropriate decisions on the annual operation of the Platform, shall be taken.

(3) The members' proposals shall be sent in writing to the founding members at least one week prior to the General Assembly meeting.

(4) The General Assembly is capable of making decisions regardless the number of members present.

(5) An extraordinary general meeting may be convened as needed.

(6) The powers of the General Assembly are as follows:

a) Defining the annual activities and financial statements presented by the Management Board.

b) Voting and adoption of the annual financial report on the operation of the Platform.

c) Making a decision to change the statute or dissolve the Platform.

d) Other decisions necessary for the normal functioning of the Platform, and the implementation of its objectives and tasks.

(e) Other tasks related to the statute and objectives of the Platform.

(7) The General Assembly meetings are secret and only the members of the Platform have the right to participate.

(8) The decisions of the General Assembly shall be adopted by a majority vote of the members present.

(9) The decision to change the Statute or dissolve the Platform shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of all members.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

Article 15

(1) The Management Board is the executive and operational body of the Platform and consists of 5 permanent members.

(2) The Board members shall be elected by the Assembly for a two years term, with the possibility of re-election, with a maximum of two members of this Board being members of the same association as members of the Platform.

(3) The Board shall meet as necessary, and at least once every three months.

(4) The Board may also hold an electronic (virtual) meeting if there is an urgent need for it.

Article 16

The responsibilities of the Management Board are as follows:

1. Implements the Statute and other acts of the Platform;
2. Implements the decisions of the Platform Assembly;
3. Implement the Platform's work program;
4. Proposes amendments to the Statute and other acts of the Platform;
5. Proposes a work program, financial plan and other Platform documents;
6. Propose financial and other reports on the operation of the Platform;
7. Manages the assets of the Platform in accordance with the powers of the Assembly, the Statute and the regulations in the Republic of Macedonia;
8. Conducts fundraising activities for the Platform;
9. Allocates funds in the Platform in accordance with the Association's adopted work program and financial plan;

10. Establish permanent and temporary working groups;
11. Performs other duties entrusted by the Assembly or other functions that are entrusted to the Board by other regulations.
12. Decides on the admission of new members to the Platform,
13. Supervise the work of new and permanent members of the Platform,
14. Decides to exclude new and permanent members from the Platform, and
15. Decides on the termination of activities and projects assigned to be carried out to the new and permanent members of the Platform, and decides on the appointment of a member who shall take over that work.

Article 17

- (1) The members of the Management Board shall not receive remuneration for their work in this Board.
- (2) Members of the Management Board may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses related to their work.

PRESIDENT AND REPORTER OF THE PLATFORM

Article 18

- (1) The members of the Management Board shall elect from among its members the President of the Platform, for a two years term.
- (2) The President shall present the Platform, and take care of its work.
- (3) The President should act as a neutral party during his/her work and take care of the work and activities of the Platform, i.e. there should be no conflict of personal interest between those of the Platform, and the interests represented by the organization from which he/she is coming.
- (4) The President has an obligation to monitor and assist the implementation of the ongoing projects.
- (5) The President shall convene and chair the meetings of the Management Board and the General Assembly.
- (6) The President shall sign the decisions adopted at the meetings of the Management Board and the General Assembly.
- (7) In the absence of the President, the Vice-President or other member designated by the President shall take over the duties in order to enable smooth running of the current affairs.

(8) The President is responsible for submitting the final annual report and financial statements to the General Assembly.

(9) The President shall appoint a member-reporter from among the permanent members of the Platform.

(10) The reporter shall have an obligation to monitor operations and activities and projects of the new and permanent Platforms members and to report to the Management Board thereof.

(11) The reporter shall have the obligation to report to the Management Board all irregularities in the work of the permanent and temporary members as soon as possible from the moment of finding out the facts about it.

ACQUIRING FUNDS AND THEIR HANDLING

Article 19

(1) The Platform has its own budget and manages it according to the objectives and needs to carry out the projects and activities.

(2) Members shall not receive royalties from the Platform. No one should have personal benefit from the costs associated with the objectives of this Platform,.

(3) All activities carried out by the members of this Platform, are free of charge. However, costs incurred as a result of the activities carried out by the members, while fulfilling the objectives of the Platform, may be refundable in accordance with the regulations on travel and daily allowances in the country.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 20

(1) All activities are carried out on voluntary basis without any remuneration.

Article 21

(1) A member of the platform may be a person over 18 years old.

(2) Members have the right to one vote in the General Assembly.

(3). All rights and obligations arising from membership and elected office are exercised in person. After the termination of the membership in the Platform, all memberships of the Platform, bodies are automatically terminated.

(3) All ballots shall be open unless at least one third of the members present in the Assembly request a secret ballot.

- (4) Lists expressing restraint shall be treated as invalid.
- (5) All decisions shall be adopted by simple majority unless otherwise specified in the Statute.
- (6) A member shall be elected if the member receives a majority of the votes in the first round.
- (7) Amendments to the Statute shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast for it to be considered as adopted.
- (8) Decisions made by the Platform bodies shall be documented in writing and signed by the President of the Assembly.
- (9) If during the General Assembly the members vote for a no-confidence motion against one of the office holders by a majority of the valid votes of the members present, the holder of the office must resign. The incumbent has the right to speak at the General Assembly before the vote.

LIQUIDATION OF THE PLATFORM

Article 22

- (1) Only an extraordinary General Assembly specially convened for this purpose may decide to liquidate the Platform, by a vote of three-quarters of the members present for liquidation.
- (2) In the event of the liquidation of the Platform,, all funds shall be equally distributed and transferred to the accounts of the permanent members of the Platform, or to a third party designated by consensus.

FINAL PROVISION

Article 23

The Statute enters into force after the constitution of the Assembly on 27.02.2020.

PRESIDENT

Metin Muaremi

