

NATURA 2000 NETWORK IN BULGARIA

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NATURA 2000 IN BULGARIA

Bulgaria created a National Ecological Network (NEM), including protected areas, as part of the Natura 2000 European Ecological Network.

Bulgaria ranks 3rd among the EU member states in terms of NATURA 2000 ecological network coverage from the national territory after the Republic of Slovenia and Croatia.



NATURA 2000 IN BULGARIA

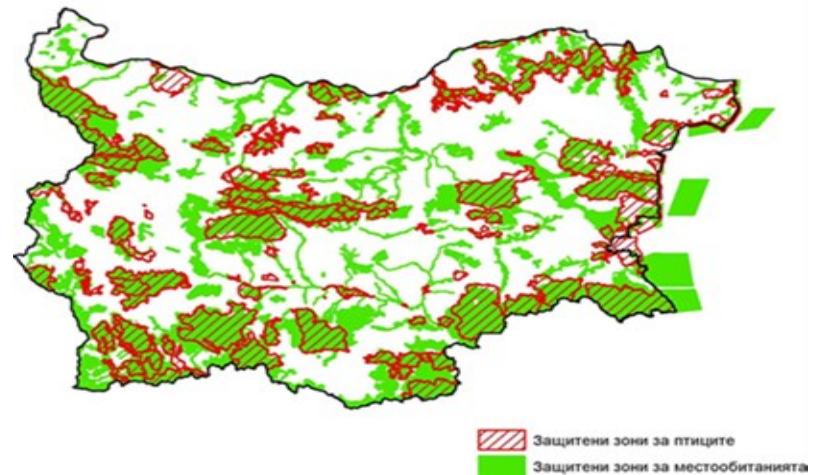
The Biodiversity Act introduces the rules of the Habitats and Birds European Directives and the process of defining, declaring and managing of the protected areas.

The number of the protected areas of the Natura 2000 ecological network in Bulgaria is 341 - covering 34.9% of the territory of the country. 13 of the protected areas have borders under both directives.



NATURA 2000 PROTECTED AREAS IN BULGARIA

- **234 protected areas of Natura2000 under the Habitats Directive**- cover approximately 30 % of the country's territory with a total area of 36 119 km²;
- **120 protected areas of Natura 2000 under the Birds Directive** - cover 23 % of the country's territory with a total area of 26 165 km².



PERFORMANCE AUDIT IN 2019

The audit is focused at evaluation of:

The effectiveness of Natura 2000 network Governance to protect the environment and the local population in the network areas for the period 2016 – 2018



AUDIT SCOPE

- **The development of Natura 2000 network in Bulgaria, as part of the European ecological network**
- **The organisation set up for the Natura 2000 management in Bulgaria**
- **The monitoring, control and reporting of the status of Natura 2000 in Bulgaria**
- **The progress regarding the implementation of the National Prioritized Action Framework for Natura 2000 Bulgaria**





MAIN ISSUES

- The requirements of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and the requirements of Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds have not been fully introduced into national law;
- It is necessary to create a more effective organisation between different bodies involved at national and regional level, municipalities and NGOs, advisory bodies to the Minister of environment and water
- The orders issued defining protected areas with regimes set for their conservation do not include all protected areas.





ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

The Ministry of Environment and Water has taken the following actions for regulatory changes:

- **for introducing new approach and structure for effective management of Natura 2000**
- **ensuring the overall process for development and implementation of the measures to improve and maintain the conservation status of the network areas and to fully implement the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive.**

A National Prioritized Action Framework 2014-2020 for Natura 2000 Bulgaria has been created. It includes priorities, measures and activities for effective management.



Thank you for your attention!

