



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE BG0002002
SITENAME Zapaden Balkan

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.1 Type A | 1.2 Site code BG0002002 | Back to top |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

1.3 Site name

| |
|----------------|
| Zapaden Balkan |
|----------------|

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1.4 First Compilation date 2005-10 | 1.5 Update date 2015-07 |
|--|-----------------------------------|

1.6 Respondent:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Name/Organisation: | Ministry of Environment and Water, "National Nature Protection Service" Directorate |
| Address: | Sofia Kn. Maria Luiza Blvd. 22 1000 Sofia |
| Email: | natura2000@moew.government.bg |

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

| | |
|--|--|
| Date site classified as SPA: | 2007-12 |
| National legal reference of SPA designation | Site classified as SPA by Council of Ministers Decision No. 802/04.12.2007 (promulgated SG 107/2007). |
| Explanation(s): | Site classified as SPA by Council of Ministers Decision No. 802/04.12.2007 (promulgated SG 107/2007). Issued designation order by the Minister of Environment and Water with prohibitions and restrictions on activities contradicting the conservation objectives of the site - Order No. RD - 119/09.02.2012 (promulgated SG 20/2012), amended by Order No. RD - 68/28.01.2013 (promulgated SG 10/2013). |

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude 22.829166666666666 **Latitude** 43.428888888888885

2.2 Area [ha]: 146832.4711 **2.3 Marine area [%]** 0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

| NUTS level 2 code | Region Name |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| BG41 | Югозападен / Yugozapaden |
| BG31 | Северозападен / Severozapaden |
| BG31 | Северозападен / Severozapaden |

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Alpine (59.7
%)

Continental (40.3
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

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3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

| Species | | | | | Population in the site | | | | | | Site assessment | | | |
|---------|------|---|---|----|------------------------|------|-----|------|------|----------|-----------------|------|-------|------|
| G | Code | Scientific Name | S | NP | T | Size | | Unit | Cat. | D. qual. | A B C D | | A B C | |
| | | | | | | Min | Max | | | | Pop. | Con. | Iso. | Glo. |
| B | A402 | Accipiter brevipes | | | r | 4 | 6 | p | | G | A | B | C | A |
| B | A085 | Accipiter gentilis | | | c | | 9 | i | | G | B | B | C | A |
| B | A086 | Accipiter nisus | | | c | | 61 | i | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A223 | Aegolius funereus | | | p | 20 | 30 | p | | G | A | A | C | A |
| B | A229 | Alcedo atthis | | | p | 20 | 25 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A465 | Alectoris graeca graeca | | | p | 70 | 90 | p | | G | B | A | B | B |
| B | A255 | Anthus campestris | | | r | 65 | 90 | p | | G | B | A | C | B |
| B | A091 | Aquila chrysaetos | | | p | 7 | 8 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A404 | Aquila heliaca | | | p | | 3 | p | | G | A | B | C | A |
| B | A404 | Aquila heliaca | | | c | 1 | 1 | i | | G | A | B | C | A |
| B | A089 | Aquila pomarina | | | r | 5 | 6 | p | | G | C | B | C | B |
| B | A089 | Aquila pomarina | | | c | | 35 | i | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A104 | Bonasa bonasia | | | p | 60 | 80 | p | | G | B | A | C | B |
| B | A215 | Bubo bubo | | | p | 18 | 23 | p | | G | B | B | C | A |
| B | A087 | Buteo buteo | | | p | 49 | 85 | p | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A087 | Buteo buteo | | | c | | 122 | i | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A403 | Buteo rufinus | | | c | | 8 | i | | G | C | B | C | A |
| B | A403 | Buteo rufinus | | | p | 12 | 15 | p | | G | B | A | C | B |
| B | A224 | Caprimulgus europaeus | | | r | 100 | 100 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A136 | Charadrius dubius | | | r | 1 | 3 | p | | G | C | B | C | C |
| B | A031 | Ciconia ciconia | | | r | 27 | 27 | p | | G | C | B | C | B |
| B | A031 | Ciconia ciconia | | | c | | 2 | i | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A030 | Ciconia nigra | | | r | 14 | 14 | p | | G | B | A | C | B |
| B | A030 | Ciconia nigra | | | c | | 4 | i | | G | C | A | C | B |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|------|------|-------|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| B | A080 | Circetus gallicus | | | c | | 18 | i | | G | C | A | C | B |
| B | A080 | Circetus gallicus | | | r | 5 | 7 | p | | G | B | A | C | B |
| B | A081 | Circus aeruginosus | | | c | | 7 | i | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A082 | Circus cyaneus | | | c | | 7 | i | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A084 | Circus pygargus | | | c | | 11 | i | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A231 | Coracias garrulus | | | r | | 5 | p | | G | C | B | C | C |
| B | A122 | Crex crex | | | r | 46 | 147 | males | | | B | A | C | A |
| B | A239 | Dendrocopos leucotos | | | p | 50 | 70 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A238 | Dendrocopos medius | | | p | 75 | 75 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A429 | Dendrocopos syriacus | | | p | 400 | 700 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A236 | Dryocopus martius | | | p | 80 | 100 | p | | G | B | B | C | A |
| B | A379 | Emberiza hortulana | | | r | 325 | 325 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A511 | Falco cherrug | | | c | 1 | 2 | i | | G | A | B | B | A |
| B | A511 | Falco cherrug | | | r | 2 | 2 | p | | G | A | B | B | A |
| B | A098 | Falco columbarius | | | c | | 1 | i | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A095 | Falco naumanni | | | r | | | | P | DD | B | B | B | B |
| B | A095 | Falco naumanni | | | c | 1 | 1 | i | | G | B | B | B | B |
| B | A103 | Falco peregrinus | | | c | | 3 | i | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A103 | Falco peregrinus | | | r | 10 | 10 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A099 | Falco subbuteo | | | c | | 3 | i | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A099 | Falco subbuteo | | | r | 8 | 8 | p | | G | C | B | C | C |
| B | A096 | Falco tinnunculus | | | c | | 20 | i | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A096 | Falco tinnunculus | | | p | 37 | 60 | p | | G | C | B | C | C |
| B | A320 | Ficedula parva | | | r | 60 | 80 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A442 | Ficedula semitorquata | | | r | 100 | 300 | p | | G | A | A | C | A |
| B | A153 | Gallinago gallinago | | | c | 2 | 2 | i | | G | C | B | C | C |
| B | A123 | Gallinula chloropus | | | p | 1 | 9 | p | | G | C | B | C | C |
| B | A078 | Gyps fulvus | | | p | | 3 | i | | G | A | A | B | A |
| B | A092 | Hieraetus pennatus | | | r | 3 | 4 | p | | G | B | A | C | B |
| B | A092 | Hieraetus pennatus | | | c | | 1 | i | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A338 | Lanius collurio | | | r | 3500 | 3500 | p | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A339 | Lanius minor | | | r | 50 | 100 | p | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A246 | Lullula arborea | | | p | 3412 | 3412 | p | | G | A | A | C | A |
| B | A230 | Merops apiaster | | | c | | 3170 | i | | G | B | A | C | C |
| B | A230 | Merops apiaster | | | r | 100 | 100 | p | | G | C | B | C | C |
| B | A073 | Milvus migrans | | | r | | 3 | p | | G | C | A | C | B |
| B | A073 | Milvus migrans | | | c | | 1 | i | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A077 | Neophron percnopterus | | | r | | 2 | p | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A023 | Nycticorax nycticorax | | | r | | 1 | i | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A072 | Pernis apivorus | | | r | 9 | 18 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A072 | Pernis apivorus | | | c | | 12 | i | | G | C | A | C | A |
| B | A234 | Picus canus | | | p | 55 | 75 | p | | G | B | A | C | A |
| B | A220 | Strix uralensis | | | p | 1 | 3 | p | | G | C | A | A | B |
| B | A307 | Sylvia nisoria | | | r | 70 | 600 | p | | G | B | A | C | B |
| B | A108 | Tetrao urogallus | | | p | 30 | 30 | males | | | B | A | A | A |
| B | A142 | Vanellus vanellus | | | r | 2 | 18 | p | | G | C | B | C | C |

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

| Species | | | Population in the site | | | | | Motivation | | | | | | |
|---------|------|--|------------------------|----|-------|-------|------|------------|---------------|---|------------------|---|---|---|
| Group | CODE | Scientific Name | S | NP | Size | | Unit | Cat. | Species Annex | | Other categories | | | |
| | | | | | Min | Max | | C R V P | IV | V | A | B | C | D |
| B | A247 | Alauda arvensis | | | 2590 | 2590 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A218 | Athene noctua | | | 83 | 83 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A366 | Carduelis cannabina | | | 543 | 543 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A363 | Carduelis chloris | | | 3310 | 3310 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A347 | Corvus monedula | | | 75 | 75 | p | | | | | | | X |
| B | A113 | Coturnix coturnix | | | 625 | 625 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A377 | Emberiza cirius | | | 182 | 182 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A382 | Emberiza melanocephala | | | 3 | 3 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A269 | Erithacus rubecula | | | 23000 | 23000 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A359 | Fringilla coelebs | | | 55655 | 55655 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A244 | Galerida cristata | | | 310 | 310 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A251 | Hirundo rustica | | | 342 | 342 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A233 | Jynx torquilla | | | 91 | 91 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A271 | Luscinia megarhynchos | | | 2620 | 2620 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A383 | Miliaria calandra | | | 2232 | 2232 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A280 | Monticola saxatilis | | | 40 | 40 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A214 | Otus scops | | | 63 | 63 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A329 | Parus caeruleus | | | 1480 | 1480 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A443 | Parus lugubris | | | 35 | 35 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A235 | Picus viridis | | | 543 | 543 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A267 | Prunella collaris | | | 19 | 19 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A345 | Pyrrhocorax graculus | | | 32 | 32 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A317 | Regulus regulus | | | 1000 | 1000 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A276 | Saxicola torquata | | | 21 | 21 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A210 | Streptopelia turtur | | | 100 | 100 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A311 | Sylvia atricapilla | | | 4000 | 4000 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A333 | Tichodroma muraria | | | 3 | 3 | p | | | | X | | | |
| B | A283 | Turdus merula | | | 16572 | 16572 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A285 | Turdus philomelos | | | 1500 | 1500 | p | | | | | | X | |
| B | A282 | Turdus torquatus | | | 350 | 350 | p | | | | | | X | |

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles

- **CODE:** for Birds, Annex IV and V species the code as provided in the reference portal should be used in addition to the scientific name
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting, (see [reference portal](#))
- **Cat.:** Abundance categories: C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present
- **Motivation categories:** IV, V: Annex Species (Habitats Directive), A: National Red List data; B: Endemics; C: International Conventions; D: other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General site character

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| Habitat class | % Cover |
|----------------------------|---------|
| N23 | 2.0 |
| N08 | 6.0 |
| N17 | 1.0 |
| N20 | |
| N12 | 7.0 |
| N15 | 1.0 |
| N21 | 1.0 |
| N22 | 1.0 |
| N06 | |
| N07 | |
| N16 | 59.0 |
| N10 | 10.0 |
| N09 | 12.0 |
| Total Habitat Cover | NaN |

Other Site Characteristics

The boundaries of the area almost coincide with the orographic scope of the western share of the main Balkan Mountain chain, to the north-west stretching from the grounds of the villages Rakovitsa and Podgore to Petrohan and Ponor Mountain to the south and the Proboynitsa river valley and the Vratsa Mountain to the south-east. The area includes the Belogradchik Rocks and the adjacent higher part of the pre-Balkan a line of karst hills on the south-east. It covers also the territory of Chuprene biosphere reserve and Gornata Koriya reserve. It includes mainly semi-mountain forest habitats. The broadleaved forests have the biggest share 80,264 ha. Half of them are beech forests of *Fagus sylvatica* è *F. sylvatica* subsp. *moesiaca*. About 50% of the beech forests are between 80 and 250 years old. The forests of *Quercus frainetto*, *Q. cerris*, *Q. dalechampii* and *Carpinus betulus* have coppice origin. The coniferous forests cover 2,080 ha, mainly spruce *Picea abies*, on the territory of Chuprene biosphere reserve and spruce fir in Gornata Koriya. The spruce forests are the only natural and compact forests of this kind in the Western Balkan and are comparatively well preserved of human impact. The open terrain (pastures, farmland, rocks, etc.) covers an area of about 54,300 ha. In spite of the comparatively small area of rock formations and complexes, they are the most valuable habitat in the region, providing nesting conditions for some rare and threatened birds of prey and the Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*.

4.2 Quality and importance

Generally the Western Balkan supports rich biodiversity. Its birdlife has not been sufficiently studied: 160 breeding bird species have been recorded there, 62 of which are of European conservation concern (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004). Four species are listed in category SPEC 1 (globally threatened), 22 in SPEC 2 and 36 in SPEC 3 (threatened in Europe). Thirty one of the species occurring there are listed in the Red Data Book for Bulgaria. The Western Balkan supports one of the most numerous populations of the Rock Partridge *Alectoris graeca* and the Corncrake *Crex crex* in Bulgaria. Four globally threatened species occur there the Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* and Corncrake *Crex crex*, the Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* and Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*. The Saker Falcon, Corncrake and Imperial Eagle have considerable populations in the Western Balkan. The Lesser Kestrel is under risk of extinction from the region. The area is representative for the alpine biome, because of the complex of breeding alpine species - Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*, Yellow-billed (Alpine) Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus* and Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*. It is among the most valuable areas in the country on a European Union level for conservation of a complex of 22 breeding species - Corncrake, Imperial Eagle, Saker, Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*, Ural Owl *Strix uralensis*, Tengmalm`s Owl *Aegolius funereus*, Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*, Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, Capercallie *Tetrao urogallus*, Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*, Middle-spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*, White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*, Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*, European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*, Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, Red-backed Shrike /*Lanius collurio*/ and Lesser Grey Shrike /*Lanius minor*/. During the recent years the Capercallie is in risk of extinction from the region. Western Balkan is a site of European importance for the conservation of the Rock Partridge, Little Owl

Athene noctua, Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus, Common Quail Coturnix coturnix, Wryneck Jynx torquilla, Greenfinch Carduelis chloris and Blackbird Turdus merula.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

| Negative Impacts | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank | Threats and pressures [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] |
| M | D01.02 | | o |
| L | A04 | | i |
| M | H05 | | o |
| M | B | | i |
| M | G05 | | i |
| H | F03.01 | | i |
| M | A07 | | o |
| L | E03.01 | | i |
| L | C01.04 | | i |
| M | D01.01 | | o |
| M | E01.03 | | i |
| M | C01.07 | | o |
| M | G02.02 | | i |
| L | C01.04 | | o |
| M | D01.02 | | i |
| M | G01.02 | | i |
| M | E01.01 | | i |
| M | B02.03 | | i |
| M | B02.04 | | i |
| M | E03.01 | | o |
| L | D02.01 | | i |
| M | B01 | | i |
| H | B | | o |
| M | B02.02 | | i |
| M | B03 | | i |
| M | G01.04 | | i |
| M | D01.01 | | i |
| H | A03 | | o |
| H | B03 | | o |
| M | G05.01 | | i |
| M | B01.02 | | o |
| H | B02.02 | | o |
| L | H04 | | i |
| M | B01 | | o |
| M | G02.04 | | i |
| M | E01 | | i |
| M | H05 | | i |
| M | E01.01 | | o |
| M | B01.02 | | i |
| L | L09 | | i |
| H | F03.01 | | o |
| M | E01 | | o |
| L | E03 | | i |
| M | E03 | | o |
| L | A07 | | i |
| M | C01.07 | | i |
| M | A04 | | o |
| L | C01.01.01 | | i |
| | | | |

| Positive Impacts | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rank | Activities, management [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside /outside [i o b] |
| L | L09 | | i |
| L | A04 | | i |
| M | E01.03 | | i |
| M | A04 | | o |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--|---|
| M | A03 | | i |
| H | B02.03 | | o |
| H | B02.04 | | o |
| M | A04.03 | | i |
| L | C01.01.01 | | o |
| M | J02.05.02 | | i |

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

Initial proposal and description of the site made by Dr. J. Spiridonov - Wilderness Fund, (+3592)9880914, 9839294; Dr. P. Iankov, B. Tonchev - Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Bulgaria, 1111 Sofia, P.O.Box 50, phone (+359 2) 9715855, fax (+359 2) 9715856, www.bspb.org; G. Stoyanov - BPPS, 1000 Sofia, 40 Levski Blvd., (+3592)9634037; CEIE, 1303 Sofia, 17A "S.Vratchanski" Str., (+3592)9808497. Data revised by a team of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (<http://www.bas.bg>). Documents: BDZP.2000. BDZP.2000. Finalen otchet na proekt Kartirane gnezdovite nahodishta na tsarskiya orel (Aquila heliaca) I merki za tyahnoto opazvane. 1998-2000, Plovdiv, BDZP, 89 s.; BDZP /BirdLife Balgariya. 2005. Nacionalna banka za ornitologichna informacia 1988-2005, Balgarsko Druzhestvo za zastita na pticite; Botev, B. and Tz. Peshev, (eds). 1985. Red Data Book of Republic Bulgaria. 2: Animals. Sofia: Bulgarian Academy of Science. (In Bulgarian.); Iankov, P. 2002. (red.). Svetovno zastrasheni vidove ptitsi v Balgariya. Natsionalni planove za deystvie za opazvaneto im. Chast 1. BDZP-MOSV, Prirodzashtitna poreditsa, Kn. 4, Sofiya: 204-219.; Kostadinova, I. (sast.) 1997. Ornitologichno vazhni mesta v Balgariya. BDZP, Prirodzashtitna poreditsa. Kniga 1, BDZP, Sofiya, 176 s.; MOSV. 2005. Arhiv na zastitenite teritorii v Balgaria. Baza dannii (nepubl.); Nikolov, B., I. Hristov, P. Shurulinkov, I. Nikolov, A. Rogev, A. Dutsov, R. Stanchev. 2001. Novi dannii za nyakoi slabo izucheni vidove gorski sovi (Strix uralensis, Glaucidium passerinum, Aegolius funereus) v Balgariya. - Nauka za gorata, Kn. 1/2, 75-86.; Petrov, Tz. 1997b. Belyat shtarkel (Ciconia ciconia) v Balgariya. Prirodzashtitna poreditsa, Kniga 2, BDZP, Plovdiv.; Petrov, Tz., P. Iankov, T. Michev, B. Milchev, L. Profirov. 1991. Razprostranenie, chislenost I merki za opazvane na cherniya shtarkel, Ciconia nigra (L.) v Balgariya. Izv. Muz. Yu. Balgariya, T. 17, 25-32.; Simeonov, S., T. Michev. 1985. Savremenno razprostranenie I chislenost na buhala (Bubo bubo(L.) v Balgariya. Ekologiya, 15, 60-65.; Strategiya za razvitie na Obshtina Berkovitsa 2000 2006g. Obshtina Berkovitsa. BirdLife International. 2000. Threatened birds of the world. Barcelona and Cambridge, UK: Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International, 695pp.; BirdLife International (2004) Birds in Europe: Population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 12); BirdLife International. 2005. World Bird Database Important Birds Areas. Bulgaria. Cambridge. (unpublished); Iankov, P., N. Petkov, A. Kovachev, D. Plachiisky. (in print). Pygmy Cormorant in Bulgaria 2001/2002. Final Report.; Delov, V. 1995. Investigations on the Corncrake (Crex crex L.) in the region of Sofia. Ann. Univ. Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski, 88, 4, 25-31.; Iankov, P., Tz. Petrov, T. Michev, L. Profirov. 1994. Past and present Status of the Lesser Kestrel Falco naumanni in Bulgaria. In: Meyburg, B.-U. & R.D. Chancellor eds. 1994. Raptor Conservation Today, WWGBP/ The Pica Press, 133-137.; Kostadinova, I., M. Mihailov, (comp.) 2002. Guide for NATURA 2000 in Bulgaria. BSPB nature conservation series No5. BSPB, Sofia, 80pp. (In Bulgarian.); Kostadinova, I. 2005. Application of C criteria for Identification of Important Bird Areas of European Union importance in Bulgaria. Preliminary implementation and analysis of the gaps. In: Petrova, A. (ed.), Current state of Bulgarian biodiversity problems and perspectives. Pp. 533-548. Bulgarian Bioplatform, Sofia; Kouzmanov, G. 1996. L'Aigle pomarin Aquila pomarina en Bulgarie. In: Meyburg, B.-U. & R. D. Chancellor eds. Eagle Studies. World Working Group on Birds of Prey (WWGBP), Berlin, London & Paris, 319-326.; Kouzmanov, G., G. Stoyanov, R. Todorov. 1996. Sur la Biologie et la Protection de l'Aigle royal Aquila chrysaetos en Bulgarie. - In: Meyburg, B.-U. & R.D. Chancellor eds. 1994. Raptor Conservation Today, WWGBP/ The Pica Press, 505-515.; Michev, T., Tz. Petrov, L. Profirov. 1989. Status, breeding, distribution, numbers and conservation of the White Stork in Bulgaria; Nankinov, D. 1997b. Status of Tengmalms Owl, Aegolius funereus, in Bulgaria. Riv. Ital. Orn., Milano, 66, 2, 127-136; MOEW. 1998. CORINE Biotopes Database of the sites of European Importance for the biodiversity. Bulgaria, MOSV (nepubl.); Osieck, E. 2000 Filling in the requirements of the EU Birds Directive: Lessons from the Dutch Case. In: European IBA Workshop. 29 March - 2 April 2000, Brussels, Belgium. Proceedings. BirdLife International, 86-99; Waliczky, Z. 2000 Important Bird Areas of European Union Importance: explanation of the EU Criteria applied in IBA 2000 In: European IBA Workshop. 29 March - 2 April 2000, Brussels, Belgium. Proceedings. BirdLife International, 12-16;

Link(s): <http://natura2000.moew.government.bg/Home/ProtectedSite?code=BG0002002&siteType=BirdsDirective>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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| Code | Cover [%] |
|------|-----------|
| BG06 | 1.0 |
| BG00 | 97.8 |

| Code | Cover [%] |
|------|-----------|
| BG03 | 0.1 |

| Code | Cover [%] |
|------|-----------|
| BG01 | 1.1 |

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

| Type code | Site name | Type | Cover [%] |
|-----------|--|------|-----------|
| BG03 | BYALATA VODA - WATERFALL | + | |
| BG03 | LEVI I DESNI SUHI PECH - CAVES | + | |
| BG06 | URUCHNIK | + | |
| BG03 | DURSHIN VODOPAD | + | |
| BG03 | VODNIYA SKOK | + | |
| BG06 | KOPREN-RAVNO BUCHE-KALIMANITSA-DEYANITSA | + | 0.4 |
| BG06 | CHUPRENE | + | 0.4 |
| BG01 | GORNATA KORIYA | + | 0.1 |
| BG03 | MISHIN KAMAK | + | |
| BG06 | USKETO | + | |
| BG06 | STO OVCI | + | 0.2 |
| BG03 | HAYDUSHKI WATERFALLS | + | |
| BG01 | CHUPRENE | + | 1.0 |

designated at international level:

| Type | Site name | Type | Cover [%] |
|-------|-----------|------|-----------|
| Other | IBA | = | 100.0 |
| | CHUPRENE | + | 1.0 |

5.3 Site designation (optional)

Only 1% of the area is under legal protection according to the national law. The Tchuprene reserve was designated in 1973 for protection of the only compact coniferous forest in the Western Balkan. The Gornata Koriya reserve was designated in 1968 to protect the coniferous forests. The other protected areas are designated for protection of forest or for protection of caves and landscapes. A significant part of the territory of Western Balkan is under procedure for designation as Nature Park. The Belogradchik Rocks are unique rock complex in the country. The whole Western Balkan, together with Serbian part of the Stara Planina mountain is expected to be declared as geo-park by UNESCO. In 1998 about 33% of the area was appointed as CORINE Sites because of its European value for habitats, rare and threatened plant and animal species, including birds. In 1997 a small part of the area was designated as Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. In 2005 the whole territory of Western Balkan was designated as IBA. About 80,000 ha of the IBA is recognized also as Important Plant Area in 2003, because of the valuable forest, meadows and rocky habitats.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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| | |
|---------------|---|
| Organisation: | Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water -Montana, Sofia; Forestry Departments - Belogradchik, Berkovitsa, Barzia, Govezha, Godech, Montana, Svoge, Chiprovtsi, Chuprene;State Game-breeding Center - Midzhur; |
| Address: | |
| Email: | |

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

| |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

INSPIRE ID:

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

Yes No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).