



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 BG0002005

SITENAME Ponor

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code BG0002005	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Ponor

1.4 First Compilation date 2005-10	1.5 Update date 2015-07
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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:	2007-03
National legal reference of SPA designation	Site classified as SPA by Council of Ministers Decision No. 122/02.03.2007 (promulgated SG 21/2007).
Explanation(s):	Site classified as SPA by Council of Ministers Decision No. 122/02.03.2007 (promulgated SG 21/2007). 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 - 547/05.09.2008 (promulgated SG 83/2008).

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude 23.16722222222222	Latitude 43.05972222222222
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2.2 Area [ha]:

31376.9953

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
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2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Alpine (82.6%)

Continental (17.4%)

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			
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A085	Accipiter gentilis			p	3	3	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A086	Accipiter nisus			p	8	10	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A168	Actitis hypoleucos			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A223	Aegolius funereus			p	4	4	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A229	Alcedo atthis			p	3	6	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A465	Alectoris graeca graeca			p	30	40	p		G	C	A	B	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A255	Anthus campestris			r	5	10	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A091	Aquila chrysaetos			p	4	5	p			B	A	C	A
B	A404	Aquila heliaca			p		1	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A404	Aquila heliaca			c				P	DD	B	B	C	C
B	A089	Aquila pomarina			r		1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A028	Ardea cinerea			c	5	5	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A029	Ardea purpurea			c	1	1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A104	Bonasa bonasia			p	1	2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A215	Bubo bubo			p	5	9	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A087	Buteo buteo			c				P	DD	C	A	C	C
B	A087	Buteo buteo			p	20	20	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A403	Buteo rufinus			p	16	17	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A224	Caprimulgus europaeus			r	15	20	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A136	Charadrius dubius			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A031	Ciconia ciconia			c				P	DD	B	A	C	A
B	A030	Ciconia nigra			c	5	5	i		G	C	A	C	A
B	A030	Ciconia nigra			r	3	5	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A080	Circus gallicus			r	4	4	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A081	Circus aeruginosus			c	5	5	i		G	C	A	C	C

B	A082	Circus cyaneus			c	5	5	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A122	Crex crex			r	100	130	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A239	Dendrocopos leucotos			p	1	3	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A238	Dendrocopos medius			p	20	30	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A429	Dendrocopos syriacus			p	60	80	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A236	Dryocopus martius			p	14	18	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A379	Emberiza hortulana			r	50	80	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A511	Falco cherrug			c	1	2	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A511	Falco cherrug			r	1	2	p		G	B	A	C	B
B	A098	Falco columbarius			c	2	4	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A103	Falco peregrinus			r	4	4	p		G	B	A	C	B
B	A099	Falco subbuteo			c				P	DD	C	A	C	A
B	A099	Falco subbuteo			r	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A096	Falco tinnunculus			p	12	12	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A442	Ficedula semitorquata			r	5	15	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A092	Hieraetus pennatus			r		1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A338	Lanius collurio			r	1250	1250	p		G	C	A	C	A
B	A339	Lanius minor			r	15	20	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A246	Lullula arborea			r	200	400	p		G	C	A	C	A
B	A094	Pandion haliaetus			c		1	i		G	C	A	C	A
B	A072	Pernis apivorus			r	5	7	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A234	Picus canus			p	20	30	p		G	C	A	C	A
B	A307	Sylvia nisoria			r	200	300	p		G	B	A	C	A

- **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			7500	7500	p						X	
B	A218	Athene noctua			13	13	p						X	
B	A366	Carduelis cannabina			250	250	p						X	
B	A363	Carduelis chloris			225	225	p						X	
B	A208	Columba palumbus			30	30	p						X	
B	A113	Coturnix coturnix			275	275	p						X	
B	A377	Emberiza cirius			5	5	p						X	
B	A269	Erithacus rubecula			4000	4000	p						X	

B	A359	Fringilla coelebs			4000	4000	p							X	
B	A251	Hirundo rustica			225	225	p							X	
B	A233	Jynx torquilla			45	45	p							X	
B	A271	Luscinia megarhynchos			550	550	p							X	
B	A383	Miliaria calandra			1450	1450	p							X	
B	A280	Monticola saxatilis			15	15	p							X	
B	A214	Otus scops			6	6	p							X	
B	A329	Parus caeruleus			350	350	p							X	
B	A443	Parus lugubris			115	115	p							X	
B	A112	Perdix perdix			10	10	p							X	
B	A235	Picus viridis			110	110	p							X	
B	A345	Pyrrhonorax graculus			13	13	p							X	
B	A317	Regulus regulus			15	15	p							X	
B	A210	Streptopelia turtur			10	20	p							X	
B	A311	Sylvia atricapilla			850	850	p							X	
B	A283	Turdus merula			5000	5000	p							X	
B	A285	Turdus philomelos			800	800	p							X	
B	A285	Turdus philomelos			800	800	p							X	
B	A282	Turdus torquatus			3	3	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
N12	4.0
N23	4.0
N21	1.0
N16	27.0
N07	
N08	5.0
N09	32.0
N22	3.0
N10	22.0
N06	
N17	1.0
N15	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	NaN

Other Site Characteristics

The area covers the Ponor Mountain with altitude of 900 to 1,400 m, situated some 50 km north-west of the capital city of Sofia. It is part of the Western Stara Planina (Balkan Mountain Range). The boundaries of Ponor Mountain are outlined in the east by the deep gorge of Iskar

River; in the south by Kozle River and Iskretska River. In the west it follows the state border in its section from the grounds of the village of Burlya to Vrudlovtsi and Pepurlitsi. In the north it borders the Koznitsa Ridge of the main Stara Planina chain. It covers mainly open grass terrain - pastures and meadows with calciphyle and mesophyte grass vegetation. The grasslands are surrounded by broadleaved forests of *Fagus moesiaca* above 1,000 m a.s.l., at places mixed with *Carpinus betulus* (Bondev 1991), oak forests up to 600 m a.s.l., mixed oak-hornbeam forests between 600 and 1,000 m a.s.l., as well as rocky crests and stony karst terrain and, to a lesser extent, agricultural plots. Ponor Mountain is formed by limestone and dolomites and represents one of the biggest and most characteristic Karst areas in Bulgaria. The water penetrating the calcareous rocks has created large negative Karst forms - whirlpools, potholes (ponor in Bulgarian), and blind valleys. More than 70 caves have been found in the Ponor massif. The largest river running through Ponor Mountain is Iskar River. The other large rivers are Iskretska, Kozle, Ginska, Proboinitsa, Brezenska and Zimevishka Rivers.

4.2 Quality and importance

About 60% of the territory of the massif is covered by grassland communities - a unique mosaic of mountainous pastures, hay meadows, calcareous cliffs and pastoral patches. These habitats and the traditional land use provide suitable conditions breeding and migration of 140 bird species, 50 of which are of European conservation concern (BirdLife International, 2004). Five of them are included in category SPEC 1 as globally threatened, 15 in SPEC 2 and 30 in SPEC 3 as threatened in Europe. Twenty-six species are listed in the Red Data Book for Bulgaria as rare or endangered, as well as 38 species included in Annex 2 of the Biodiversity Act. Ponor Mountain is of global importance for the Corncrake *Crex crex* breeding there. The area provides suitable habitats for 35 species included into Annex I of the Birds Directive and 8 more migrating species. It is one of the most important sites in the country on a European Union scale for Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Corncrake, Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*, Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*, Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* and Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*. Apart from the Corncrake two globally threatened species still breed in Ponor Mountain - the Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* and Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*. It supports considerable populations of the Rock Partridge *Alectoris graeca*, Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* and European Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*. Ponor Mountain is important during migration mainly for raptors, including the globally threatened Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* and Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*.

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	J01		i
M	E03		o
M	F03.01		o
H	E03.01		i
H	C01.01		o
H	B		o
M	F03.01		i
L	E01		o
L	E01		i
M	J02.10		o
M	K01.01		o
M	G01.04		i
L	E04.01		i
M	G01.05		i
H	B01.02		o
M	K03.04		o
L	J02.10		i
L	D01.01		i
M	H04		o
H	B02.02		i
M	G05		i
H	D03.02		i
M	F03.02.02		i
H	K01.01		i
M	F02.01.02		o
H	F02.01.02		i
L	B03		i
H	A01		i
M	C01.01.02		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
H	C01.01.01		i
L	E04.01		i
M	B02.01		i
H	B01		i
H	B01		o
H	E01.03		i
M	F02.01.02		o
L	D01.01		i
M	D01.02		i
M	H06.01		o
H	A04		i
H	A05.01		i
M	H04		i
M	H06.01		i
L	E01		o

H	B01.02		i
M	K03.04		i
M	B02.03		i
H	D03.02		o
M	B02.04		i
H	A03		i
M	A04.03		i
H	B02.02		o
H	C01.01.01		i
M	D01.02		i
H	E03.01		o

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 Stoyan Nikolov, Borislav Tonchev, Boris Barov - 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; Georgi Stoyanov - BPPS, 1000 Sofia, 40 "V. Levski" blvd., tel.: (+3592)9634037. Data revised by a team of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (<http://www.bas.bg>). Documents: BDZP /BirdLife Balgariya. 2005. Nacionalna banka za ornitologichna informacia 1988-2005, Balgarsko Druzhestvo za zastita na pticite; Bondev, I. 1991. Rastitelnostta na Balgariya. S. Universitetsko izdatelstvo Sv. Kliment Ohridski, 183 s.; 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, Prirodozashtitna poreditsa, Kn. 4, Sofiya: 204-219.; Michev, T., Tz. Petrov, L. Profirov, P. Iankov, S. Gavrailov. 1989. Razprostranenie I prirodozashtiten status na skalniya orel Aquila chrysaetos chrysaetos (L.), 1758 v Balgariya. Izv. Muz. Yu. Balgariya, 15, 79-87.; MOSV. 2005. Arhiv na zastitenite teritorii v Balgaria. Baza danni (nepubl.); Nikolov, B., I. Hristov, P. Shurulinkov, I. Nikolov, A. Rogev, A. Dutsov, R. Stanchev. 2001. Novi danni 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., 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.; Stoyanov, G. 1996. Gnezdova ornotofauna na skalnite biotopi na Iskarskiya prolom. Diplomna rabota, Biologicheski fakultet pri SU Sv. Kl. Ohridski, Sofiya. 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); 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.; Grimmet, R. F. A., R. T. A. Jones. 1989. Important Bird Areas in Europe. Cambridge, U.K.: ICBP (ICBP Technical Publication No9); Iankov, P., N. Petkov, A. Kovachev, D. Plachiisky. (in print). Pygmy Cormorant in Bulgaria 2001/2002. Final Report.; 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 Bioplatfrom, 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.; MOEW. 1998. CORINE Biotopes Database of the sites of European Importance for the biodiversity. Bulgaria, MOSV (nepubl.); Nikolov, S. 2003. New locality in unusual habitat of Tengmalms Owl (Aegolius funereus) in Bulgaria. Buteo, 13, 89-93; Nikolov, S., V. Vassilev. 2004a. Breeding bird atlas of the Ponor Mountains, Western Bulgaria. Sandgrouse, 26, 1, 1-12; Nikolov, S., V. Vassilev. 2004b. Census of breeding birds in the Ponor Mountains, Western Bulgaria. Bird Census News, 16, 2, 1-12; 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=BG0002005&siteType=BirdsDirective>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
BG00	99.71	BG03	0.29		

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
BG03	DZHUGLATA	/	
BG03	SINIYA VIR	+	0.0016
BG03	ZASKOGO	+	0.28
BG03	ELATA	+	0.0016
BG03	SKAKLYA	+	0.003

designated at international level:

Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
Other	IBA	=	100.0

5.3 Site designation (optional)

The area of Ponor Mountain is not protected by the national nature conservation legislation. Five protected areas are designated for protection of caves or waterfalls that cover only 0.3% of the area. The proposed SPA overlaps significantly with the Ponor CORINE Site designated in 1998 because of its European value for habitats, rare and threatened plant and animal species, including birds. In 1989 a small part of the area was designated as Important Bird Area by BirdLife International Gintzi IBA. In 1997 a new Important Bird Area was identified there Zimevitza meadows, which covers small part of the valuable meadows. Since 2005 the whole area of Ponor has been designated as Important Bird Area.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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Organisation:	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water -Sofia; Danubean River Basin Directorate;Forestry Departments - Godech; Svoge; Sofia;
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

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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).

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