



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 BG0000636

SITENAME Niska Rila

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type	1.2 Site code Back to top
B	BG0000636

1.3 Site name

Niska Rila

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2018-10	-

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:	0000-00
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data
Date site proposed as SCI:	2019-04
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	No data

National legal reference of SAC designation:	No data
Explanation(s):	Adopted by Council of Ministers Decision No. 177/03.04.2019 (promulgated SG 29/2019).

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

23.4255

Latitude

42.2611

2.2 Area [ha]:

37191.67

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

BG41	/ Yugozapaden
BG42	/ Yuzhen tsentralen

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Continental (9.0 %)

Alpine (91.0 %)

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.
F	1163	Cottus gobio			p	9032	12155	i	C	G	A	A	A	A
M	1354	Ursus arctos			p	5	10	i	C	M	C	B	C	B

- **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)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N26	85.82
N23	0.11
N27	13.72
N06	0.35
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site covers the lower parts of the Rila Mountain to the borders of Rila National Park (SCI BG0000495 "Rila") and Rilski Manastir Nature Park (SCI BG0000496 "Rilski manastir"). The area covers extensive forest communities - mainly state-owned old coniferous, mixed and deciduous forests. Municipal forests, as well as open habitats, including mainly high altitude natural grasslands, shrublands, pastures and transitional habitats, are also included in the site. Rock complexes and water areas are poorly represented as a percentage of the area of the site. It also covers the water catchment area of the Iskar river within the municipality of Samokov where a significant population of the European bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) is registered. This population is geographically separated from the rest of the national population of the species distributed mainly in the rivers on the northern slopes of Stara Planina mountain. Areas with mountain climate are covered, where average annual temperatures vary between 5-12 ° C, with a perishable snow cover and precipitation between 800 and 1400 mm/year. The altitude is between 300 and 1800 m. There are rugged mountain slopes with rock complexes with an inclination above 10% and various exhibitions. The site is within the territorial scope of 13 municipalities - Dupnitsa, Sapareva Banya, Samokov, Dolna Banya, Kostenets, Belovo, Simitli, Boboshevo, Blagoevgrad, Razlog, Rila, Yakoruda and Belitsa.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site is of national and European importance for the conservation of habitats of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and the European bullhead (*Cottus gobio*). It provides protection of the typical habitats of both species and covers territories from the Alpine (91%) and the Continental (9%) biogeographical regions. The site includes bear habitats actually occupied by the species, as well as areas forming a natural ecological corridor with high habitat quality. Territories have high nutritional potential and conditions for undisturbed existence, reproduction and breeding of offspring. The strongly expressed seasonality in the use of nutritional resources by the bear leads to the concentration of a significant number of individuals living mainly in the central areas of Rila Mountain (Rila National Park and Rilski Manastir Nature Park) on the territories included in the SCI "Niska Rila" in the spring, when the high parts of the mountain are still snow-covered, and during the late summer-autumn season, when fruit trees are ripe. The main habitats of the species in the country such as broad-leaved forests in the mountains, the coniferous forests in the high and medium forest belt, including the most important as nutritional potential old forests of first and second bonity are covered. In the lower parts, the habitats include beech-hornbeam and oak forests, mainly on steep and rocky gorges. This site also provides the necessary connectivity of the habitats of the species with the neighboring mountains Verila, Plana, Pirin, Western Rhodopes and includes suitable habitats of the species that play the role of bio-corridors. Appropriate territories are included for the movement of individuals between mountain

ranges, providing the necessary resources for food, shelter and resting of the species. The site includes also the Iskar River valley and its tributaries above the town of Samokov, where the European bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) is actually registered in field surveys with significant relative population size. According to the data available by 2012, the site protects geographically detached population of the species, equal to the size of the rest of the national population of the species occupying the rivers on the northern slopes of the Stara Planina mountain.

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]
H	F03.02.03		i
H	J02.05.05		i
M	G02		i
M	J02.05		i
M	G05		i
M	J02.03		i
H	F05.04		i
H	J02		i
M	K03.05		i
M	B03		i
M	J02.02		i
M	C01.01		i
H	D01.02		i
M	G01		i
M	H01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]

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)

Type	[%]
Public	National/Federal
	State/Province
	Local/Municipal
	Any Public
Joint or Co-Ownership	
Private	
Unknown	
sum	

4.5 Documentation

The proposal for the SCI was drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry on the basis of an assessment following the methodology set out in the 2007 Action plan for the Brown bear in Bulgaria (Dr R. Gunchev, 1989, Dr. R. Gunchev, 2003). The same methodology is included in Ordinance No 18 of 7.10.2015 on Inventory and Planning in Forest Territories, Annex 29 and used for hunting management purposes. To estimate the habitat of the bear, data from the following sources are used: 1. For climatic factors - Data on the distribution of the average annual temperature at altitude in the mountainous climatic region of the Republic of Bulgaria. 2. For Relief Topography - Data from AsterGDEM. 3. For the biotic factors - LESO layer data of the respective forestry holdings, published on the website of the Executive Forest Agency. 4. For the anthropogenic factors - for the forest areas - data from the LESO layer; outside the forest areas - Corine

data. Data from monitoring of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Bulgaria was used for the period 2011-2016, EEA, National System for Biodiversity Monitoring. Data from project "Development of the National Ecological Network Natura 2000, Stage 2009" of IBEI-BAS, funded by the Environmental Protection Management Enterprise (EMEP), for the registrations of European bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) were used.

Link(s): <http://eea.government.bg/bg/bio/nsnbr>
<http://eea.government.bg/bg/soer/2016/biodiversity-nem>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
BG00	100.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
BG05	Rilski Manastir	/	0.0
BG03	Chernata skala	/	0.0
BG02	Rila	/	0.0

designated at international level:

Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
other	Rila IBA	*	66.0

5.3 Site designation (optional)

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water - Pernik
Address:	15 Blagoi Gebrev Str., floor 2, P.O. box102, Pernik 2304
Email:	riew_ernik@abv.bg
Organisation:	Southwest State Forest Enterprise
Address:	18 Zora Str., Blagoevgrad
Email:	swdp@abv.bg
Organisation:	Basin Directorate for Water Management in Danube Region – Pleven
Address:	60 Chataldja Str., 5800 Pleven
Email:	dunavbd@bdr.org
Organisation:	Ministry of Environment and Water
Address:	Sofia Kn. Maria Luiza Blvd. 22 1000 Sofia
Email:	natura2000@moew.government.bg

Organisation:	East Aegean River Basin Directorate - Plovdiv
Address:	35 Yanko Sakuzov Str., P.O. box 307, 4000 Plovdiv
Email:	bd_plovdiv@abv.bg

Organisation:	West Aegean River Basin Directorate - Blagoevgrad
Address:	66 St. Dimitar Solunski Str., P. O. box 441, Blagoevgrad
Email:	bdblg@wabd.bg

Organisation:	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water - Blagoevgrad
Address:	1 Svoboda Str., 2700 Blagoevgrad
Email:	blriosv@yahoo.com

Organisation:	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water - Sofia
Address:	136 Tzar Boris III Blvd., 1618 Sofia
Email:	riosv@riew-sofia.org

Organisation:	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water - Pazardzhik
Address:	3 Gen. Gurko Str., floor 4. P.O. box 220, 4400 Pazardzhik
Email:	riewpz@riewpz.org

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).