



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

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
A	BG0002002

1.3 Site name

Zapaden Balkan

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

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Ministry of Environment and Water, "National Nature Protection Service" Directorate
Address:	Sofia Maria Luiza Blvd. 22 1000 Sofia
Email:	r.dimova@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

BG31	Северозападен / Severozapaden
BG41	Югозападен / Yugozapaden
BG31	Северозападен / Severozapaden

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Alpine (59.7 %)

Continental (40.3 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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

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Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
Group	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	Type	Size		Unit	Cat.	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Min	Max		C R V P		Pop.	Cons.	Isol.	Glob.
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			c	1	1	i		G	A	B	C	A
B	A404	Aquila heliaca			p		3	p		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		c		2	i		G	C	A	C	A
B	A031	Ciconia ciconia		r	27	27	p		G	C	B	C	B
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	Circus gallicus		c		18	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A080	Circus 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	m			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		c	1	1	i		G	B	B	B	B
B	A095	Falco naumanni		r				P	DD	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		p	37	60	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A096	Falco tinnunculus		c		20	i		G	C	A	C	A
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			c		1	i		G	C	A	C	A
B	A092	Hieraetus pennatus			r	3	4	p		G	B	A	C	B
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			r	100	100	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A230	Merops apiaster			c		3170	i		G	B	A	C	C
B	A073	Milvus migrans			c		1	i		G	C	A	C	A
B	A073	Milvus migrans			r		3	p		G	C	A	C	B
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	m			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							X	
B	A218	Athene noctua			83	83							X	
B	A366	Carduelis cannabina			543	543							X	
B	A363	Carduelis chloris			3310	3310							X	

B	A347	Corvus monedula			75	75								X
B	A113	Coturnix coturnix			625	625							X	
B	A377	Emberiza cirius			182	182							X	
B	A382	Emberiza melanocephala			3	3							X	
B	A269	Erithacus rubecula			23000	23000							X	
B	A359	Fringilla coelebs			55655	55655							X	
B	A244	Galerida cristata			310	310							X	
B	A251	Hirundo rustica			342	342							X	
B	A233	Jynx torquilla			91	91							X	
B	A271	Luscinia megarhynchos			2620	2620							X	
B	A383	Miliaria calandra			2232	2232							X	
B	A280	Monticola saxatilis			40	40							X	
B	A214	Otus scops			63	63							X	
B	A329	Parus caeruleus			1480	1480							X	
B	A443	Parus lugubris			35	35							X	
B	A235	Picus viridis			543	543							X	
B	A267	Prunella collaris			19	19							X	
B	A345	Pyrrhocorax graculus			32	32							X	
B	A317	Regulus regulus			1000	1000							X	
B	A276	Saxicola torquata			21	21							X	
B	A210	Streptopelia turtur			100	100							X	
B	A311	Sylvia atricapilla			4000	4000							X	
B	A333	Tichodroma muraria			3	3					X			
B	A283	Turdus merula			16572	16572							X	
B	A285	Turdus philomelos			1500	1500							X	
B	A282	Turdus torquatus			350	350							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
N08	6.0
N20	
N09	12.0
N12	7.0
N22	1.0
N21	1.0

N17	1.0
N07	
N06	
N16	59.0
N15	1.0
N10	10.0
N23	2.0
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 Probaynitsa 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* ? *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) Cuckoo *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 Falcon *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	E01.01		i
M	J02.05.02		i
L	D02.01		i
M	A04		o
M	H05		o
H	F03.01		o
L	C01.04		i
L	A04		i
L	C01.01.01		o
M	G01.04		i
M	D01.02		i
M	E01		o

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

M	E01		i
M	E03.01		o
M	D01.01		i
M	B02.04		i
M	D01.02		o
M	B02.03		i
H	B02.03		o
M	A03		i
H	B03		o
M	G02.02		i
L	H04		i
M	E03		o
M	D01.01		o
M	G01.02		i
M	B01		i
L	C01.01.01		i
L	C01.04		o
M	E01.01		o
M	C01.07		i
M	H05		i
L	L09		i
M	B01		o
M	B01.02		o
M	B03		i
H	B02.02		o
M	G02.04		i
M	B01.02		i
H	F03.01		i
M	A04.03		i
H	A03		o
L	E03.01		i
L	E03		i
M	B		i
M	E01.03		i
M	B02.02		i
L	A07		i
H	B02.04		o
H	B		o
M	C01.07		o
M	A07		o
M	G05		i
M	G05.01		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

4.5 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 Bulgariya. 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 Bulgariya. 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 Bulgariya. 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 Bulgariya. - Nauka za gorata, Kn. 1/2, 75-86.; Petrov, .Tz. 1997b. Beliayat shtarkel (Ciconia ciconia) v Bulgariya. 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 Bulgariya. ? Izv. Muz. Yu. Bulgariya, T. 17, 25-32.; Simeonov, S., T. Michev. 1985. Savremenno razprostranenie I

chislenost na buhala (*Bubo bubo*(L.) v Bulgariya. ? *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. Preliminarily 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 [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
BG03	0.1	BG00	97.8	BG06	1.0
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 [%]
BG01	CHUPRENE	+	1.0
BG06	CHUPRENE	+	0.4
BG03	DURSHIN VODOPAD	+	
BG03	BYALATA VODA - WATERFALL	+	
BG03	MISHIN KAMAK	+	
BG01	GORNATA KORIYA	+	0.1
BG06	URUCHNIK	+	
BG03	VODNIYA SKOK	+	
BG03	LEVI I DESNI SUHI PECH - CAVES	+	
BG06	STO OVCI	+	0.2
BG06	KOPREN-RAVNO BUCHE-KALIMANITSA-DEYANITSA	+	0.4
BG06	USKETO	+	
BG03	HAYDUSHKI WATERFALLS	+	

designated at international level:

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

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, Svoje, Chiprovtsi, Chuprene; State Game-breeding Center - Midzhur;
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

☐	Yes
☐	No, but in preparation
☒	No

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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