



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

BG0002084

SITENAME

Palakaria

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
A	BG0002084

1.3 Site name

Palakaria

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 – 133/10.02.2012 (promulgated SG 26/2012).
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2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

23.4008333333333

Latitude

42.39

2.2 Area [ha]:

15798.6992

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 (5.8 %)

Continental (94.2 %)

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	A229	Alcedo atthis			p	2	2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A465	Alectoris graeca graeca			p	3	3	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A215	Bubo bubo			p	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A087	Buteo buteo			p	1	1	p		G	D			
B	A087	Buteo buteo			c				P	DD	D			
B	A224	Caprimulgus europaeus			r	5	50	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A136	Charadrius dubius			r	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A031	Ciconia ciconia			r	134	134	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A030	Ciconia nigra			r	1	2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A122	Crex crex			r	80	108	p		G	C	A	C	A
B	A429	Dendrocopos syriacus			p	12	38	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A236	Dryocopus martius			p	1	3	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A379	Emberiza hortulana			r	3	27	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A511	Falco cherrug			c	1	1	i		G	C	B	B	B
B	A096	Falco tinnunculus			p	1	1	p		G	D			

B	A338	Lanius collurio			r	110	800	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A339	Lanius minor			r		2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A246	Lullula arborea			p	33	108	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A234	Picus canus			p	1	4	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A307	Sylvia nisoria			r	3	25	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			r		2	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			510	510							X	
B	A221	Asio otus			1	1							X	
B	A218	Athene noctua			8	8							X	
B	A366	Carduelis cannabina			75	75							X	
B	A363	Carduelis chloris			89	89							X	
B	A347	Corvus monedula			29	29								X
B	A113	Coturnix coturnix			187	187							X	
B	A377	Emberiza cirius			31	31							X	
B	A382	Emberiza melanocephala			1	1							X	
B	A269	Erithacus rubecula			725	725							X	
B	A359	Fringilla coelebs			1555	1555							X	
B	A244	Galerida cristata			71	71							X	
B	A251	Hirundo rustica			170	170							X	
B	A233	Jynx torquilla			19	19							X	
B	A271	Luscinia megarhynchos			470	470							X	
B	A383	Miliaria calandra			610	610							X	
B	A214	Otus scops			10	10							X	
B	A329	Parus caeruleus			71	71							X	
B	A443	Parus lugubris			14	14							X	
B	A235	Picus viridis			35	35							X	
B	A276	Saxicola torquata			3	3							X	
B	A210	Streptopelia turtur			71	71							X	

B	A219	Strix aluco			5	5							X	
B	A311	Sylvia atricapilla			200	200							X	
B	A283	Turdus merula			845	845							X	
B	A285	Turdus philomelos			345	345							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
N10	28.0
N17	2.0
N06	1.0
N20	
N22	
N23	9.0
N08	1.0
N16	1.0
N12	48.0
N15	1.0
N21	
N09	8.0
N19	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	NaN

Other Site Characteristics

The area is located in southern Bulgaria, between the Vitosha and the Rila mountains. It covers the western part of the Samokov- Palakaria kettle field with the Palakaria river valley. It is directed from the north-west to the south-east. Its western border passes along the slopes of the Vitosha and Verila mountains in the grounds of the village of Yarlovo and follows the filed outlines, reaching east to the Iskar river and the town of Samokov. The kettle field is the bottom of a former freshwater lake, which has existed during the Pliocene. Later in time alluvial deposits from the mountain have accumulated. At present it is a wet kettle field with altitude 950 m. Hills of tectonic origin rise in its middle. Continuous, comparatively mild winter with late snow melting is typical for the area. The main habitats are mesophile grasslands (meadows with low and medium-high grasses, bogs and pastures), arable lands and abandoned agricultural plots. The forests are mixed and coniferous, located mainly on the slopes of the adjacent mountains. A big part of them are artificial plantations.

4.2 Quality and importance

Palakaria supports 104 breeding bird species, 4 of which are listed in the Red Data Book for Bulgaria (1985). Of the birds occurring there 37 species are of European conservation concern (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004), 1 of them being listed in category SPEC 1 as globally threatened, 15 in SPEC 2 and 21 in SPEC 3 as species threatened in Europe. The area provides suitable habitats for 15 species, included in Annex 2 of the Biodiversity Act, which need special conservation measures. They are listed also in Annex I of the Birds Directive. The area supports the most dense breeding population of the White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* in Bulgaria. It is one of the most important sites in the country for this species, as well as for the Corncrake *Crex crex* and the Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, which have considerable breeding populations there. The White stork nests in the settlements on the site's periphery and uses the wet meadows for foraging. The area holds good populations of Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*, Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* and Red-Backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*.

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]
L	B		i
M	E03.01		i
H	A03		i
M	F03.01		i
M	B01		i
M	A08		i
H	A10		i
M	J02.03		i
M	A01		i
L	G02.10		i
L	J02.05		i
M	F03.02.03		i
M	A09		i
L	E01.01		i
M	D01.02		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	A01		i
M	A09		i
M	D01.02		i
L	E01.01		i
H	A04		i
H	A03		i
H	A05.01		i
L	J02.05		i
M	A08		i
M	B01		i
L	G02.10		i
M	F03.01		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. Petar Iankov, Dr. Nikolai Petkov, Dr. Ventseslav Delov - 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. 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; 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 ptici v Bulgaria. Nacionalni planove za dejstvие za opazvaneto im. Chast 1. BDZP-MOSV, Prirodzashtitna poredica, Kn. 4, Sofia: 204-219.?. MOSV. 2005. Arhiv na zastitenite teritorii v Bulgaria. Baza dannii (nepubl.); Petrov, .C 1997b. Beliat shurkel (Ciconia ciconia) v Bulgaria. Prirodzashtitna poredica, Kniga 2, BDZP, Plovdiv.; Petrov, C., P.Iankov, T. Michev, B. Milchev, L. Profirov. 1991. Razprostranenie, chislenost i merki za opazvane na chernia shurkel, Ciconia nigra (L.) v Bulgaria. ? Izv. Muz. IU. Bulgaria, T. 17, 25-32.; Simeonov, S., T. Michev. 1985. Suvremenno razprostranenie i chislenost na buhala (Bubo bubo(L.) v Bulgaria. ? Ekologia, 15, 60-65.; 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).373pp.; BSPB/BirdLife International. 2005. World Bird Database ? Important Birds Areas.Bulgaria. Cambridge. (unpublished); Guidelines for evaluation of protected zones according, which include habitats for birds to art.7, par.3, under the art.6 par.1.3 and 1.4 of the Biodiversity Act. 2005. (In Bulgarian.); Kostadinova, I., S.Dereliev. 2001. Results the Mid-Winter Counts of Waterbirds in Bulgaria for the period 1997- 2001. BSPB Conservation Series. Book 3, BSPB, Sofia, BG; 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 Michailov, Ch. 1995. Seasonal changes in the population of the Quail (Coturnix coturnix L., 1758) in the Southwest of Bulgaria. ? In: Proceedings of the Internatinal Union of Game Biologists, XXII Congress, Sen. Ed. Botev, N., Sofia, Pensoft, 14-19.; Michev, T., Tz. Petrov, L. Profirov. 1989. Status, breeding, distribution, numbers and conservation of the White Stork in Bulgaria 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=BG0002084&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	100.0	BG05			

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
BG05	VITOSHA	/	

5.3 Site designation (optional)

The area is not protected by the national nature conservation law. About 7% of the territory is covered by CORINE Site "Palakaria", which was designated in 1998 because of its European value for rare and threatened habitats, plant and animal species, including birds. In 2005 it was designated also as Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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Organisation:	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water - Sofia; Forestry Departments - Dupnitsa, Samokov; Danube River Basin Directorate;
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

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).