



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 BG0002076

SITENAME Mesta

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code BG0002076	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Mesta

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:	2007-12
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 - 532/26.05.2010 (promulgated SG 51/2010).

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude 23.7538	Latitude 41.6035
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2.2 Area [ha]: 20426.6444	2.3 Marine area [%] 0.0
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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 (100.0
%)

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			
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A085	Accipiter gentilis			c	4	4	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A086	Accipiter nisus			c	15	15	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A229	Alcedo atthis			p	8	8	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A465	Alectoris graeca graeca			p	15	25	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A050	Anas penelope			c	2	2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A055	Anas querquedula			c	18	18	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A051	Anas strepera			c	2	2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A091	Aquila chrysaetos			p	2	2	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A090	Aquila clanga			c	1	1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A089	Aquila pomarina			r	1	2	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A089	Aquila pomarina			c	10	10	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A028	Ardea cinerea			w		4	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A028	Ardea cinerea			c	21	21	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A029	Ardea purpurea			r	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A029	Ardea purpurea			c	2	2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A029	Ardea purpurea			w		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A024	Ardeola ralloides			c	10	10	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A060	Aythya nyroca			c	11	11	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A215	Bubo bubo			p	3	3	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A087	Buteo buteo			c	135	135	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A087	Buteo buteo			p	3	4	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A087	Buteo buteo			w	1	3	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A403	Buteo rufinus			c	7	7	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A403	Buteo rufinus			p	2	6	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A224	Caprimulgus europaeus			r	10	10	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A136	Charadrius dubius			c	16	16	i		G	C	B	C	C

B	A023	Nycticorax nycticorax			r	3	3	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A023	Nycticorax nycticorax			c				P	DD	C	A	C	C
B	A094	Pandion haliaetus			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A072	Pernis apivorus			r	5	5	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A072	Pernis apivorus			c				P	DD	C	A	C	B
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			c	100	400	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w		5	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A393	Phalacrocorax pygmeus			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A234	Picus canus			p	4	4	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A032	Plegadis falcinellus			c	10	10	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A118	Rallus aquaticus			w		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A118	Rallus aquaticus			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A249	Riparia riparia			c	10	10	i		G	D			
B	A307	Sylvia nisoria			r	50	100	p		G	C	A	C	A
B	A004	Tachybaptus ruficollis			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A004	Tachybaptus ruficollis			w		7	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A166	Tringa glareola			c	30	30	i		G	C	B	C	A
B	A165	Tringa ochropus			w		9	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A165	Tringa ochropus			c	10	11	i		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	A377	Emberiza cirius			40	40	p						X	
B	A251	Hirundo rustica			20	20	p						X	
B	A271	Luscinia megarhynchos			65	65	p						X	
B	A280	Monticola saxatilis			5	5	p						X	
B	A443	Parus lugubris			15	15	p						X	
B	A445	Sitta neumayer			12	12	p				X			
B	A210	Streptopelia turtur			30	30	p						X	
B	A304	Sylvia cantillans			7	7	p						X	
B	A305	Sylvia melanocephala			1	1	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
N16	24.0
N23	3.0
N07	
N08	5.0
N22	
N10	5.0
N12	28.0
N20	
N09	12.0
N06	3.0
N15	7.0
N17	6.0
N19	5.0
N21	2.0
Total Habitat Cover	NaN

Other Site Characteristics

The site covers the Mesta river valley, its northernmost limit being the village of Mesta. On the north-east it includes the rocky formation Svabata (The Wedding). On the west the site includes the lowest slopes of the southern Pirin and on the east the low parts of the Western Rhodopes. Its territory includes the tributaries of Mesta River - the Tufcha river near the village of Ognyanovo, the Kanina river near the village of Gurmen, the Mutnitsa river near the village of Breznitsa and the Bistritsa river near the village of Ablanitsa. To the south it reaches to the villages of Godeshevo and Beslen and the Greek border. Near the villages of Banya, Ognyanovo and Musomishta there are many mineral springs. The soils are sediment, deluvial alluvial, shallow, marron (lessivated) and moltic in the Gotse Delchev valley. The site includes the only gorge along the river course Momina Klisura. The vegetation is formed by oak, and oak-hornbeam forests, mixed with Mediterranean elements, Austrian and Scots pine plantations. The dry and sunny spots are covered by oak and juniper shrubs. The riverine vegetation is dominated by willow (*Salix alba*, *Salix fragilis*), poplar (*Populus nigra*, *Populus alba*), Black Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and Oriental Plane *Platanus orientalis*. The plane often forms pure formations or such mixed with Black Alder. A big part of the territory is occupied by agricultural plots.

4.2 Quality and importance

The region of the Mesta supports 125 bird species, 32 of which are listed in the Red Data Book for Bulgaria (1985). Of the birds occurring there 56 species are of European conservation concern (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004), 4 of them being listed in category SPEC 1 as globally threatened, 13 in SPEC 2 and 39 in SPEC 3 as species threatened in Europe. The area provides suitable habitats for 51 species, included in Annex 2 of the Biodiversity Act, which need special conservation measures, of which 45 are listed also in Annex I of the Birds Directive. The site is of global importance as a representative example of the Mediterranean biome. Five biome-restricted species, typical for the Mediterranean biome, occur there: Rock Partridge *Alectoris graeca*, Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum*, Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*, Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer*, Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*, Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*. It is one of the five most important sites in Bulgaria on European Union scale for the breeding White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*, Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* and Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*. It also provides prerequisites for the nesting of the globally threatened Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*. The area holds representative populations of Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* and Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*. Along the Mesta River there is a migration flyway of a regional importance mainly for birds of prey, but also for storks, which breed in north-west Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania. The most numerous migratory birds registered there on autumn migration are the Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* and the Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. The fishponds situated on Mesta River near the town of Gotse Delchev are one of the few stopover sites for waterfowl in south-west Bulgaria. It is regularly visited by the Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, Great White Egret *Egretta alba*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, etc. During the migration four globally threatened species occur along the Mesta River valley: the Pygmy cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, the Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, the Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* and the Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*.

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	J02.03		i
H	C01.01.01		i
H	A07		i
H	E03		i
L	G02.04		i
H	K01.01		i
H	F03.01		i
L	E01.03		i
L	J02.02		i
L	G01.05		i
L	G01.04		i
M	A04		i
H	C01.04		i
L	E04.01		i
M	G05		i
M	A03		i
M	D01.02		i
M	H07		i
M	A08		i
M	B02.02		i
L	A02		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
M	B01.02		i
H	A04.03		i
H	F02.03		i
L	E04.01		i
M	B02.02		i
H	A10		i
M	A01		i
H	B01		i
H	J02		i
M	A08		i
L	G02.04		i
L	A02		i
H	A05.02		i
L	J02.03		i
M	B		i
L	E01.03		i
H	A09		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 G. Stoyanov, Dr. P. Iankov, S. Gigiov, M. Aleksandrova - 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 ; B. Nikolov, I. Nikolov, S. Velkov, R. Aleksov - 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/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 dejstvie za opazvaneto im. Chast 1. BDZP-MOSV, Prirodzashtitna poredica, Kn. 4, Sofia: 204-219.; Michev, T., C. Petrov, L. Profirov, P. Iankov, S. Gavrailov. 1989. Razprostranenie i prirodzashtiten status na skalnia orel *Aquila chrysaetos chrysaetos* (L.), 1758 v Bulgaria. Izv. Muz. IU. Bulgaria, 15, 79-87.; MOSV. 2005. Arhiv na zastitenite teritorii v Balgaria. Baza danni (nepubl.); Petkov, N. 1997b. Suvremenno sustoianie na belookata potapnica (*Aythya nyroca*) v Bulgaria. Diplomna rabota, Biologicheski Fakultet pri SU Sv. Kl. Ohridski, Sofia, 104 s.; Petrov, .C 1997b. Beliat shturkel (*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 shturkel, *Ciconia nigra* (L.) v Bulgaria. Izv. Muz. IU. Bulgaria, T. 17, 25-32.; Simeonov, S. 1986. Materiali vurhu razprostranienieto i gnezdovata biologia na chervenogushoto koprivarche (*Sylvia cantillans* (Pallas)) v Bulgaria. Ekologia, 19, 57-61.; Simeonov, S., T. Michev. 1985. Suvremenno razprostranenie i chislenost na buhala (*Bubo bubo* (L.)) v Bulgaria. Ekologia, 15, 60-65.; Vatev, I., P. Simeonov, T. Michev, B. Ivanov. 1980. Belochelata svrachka (*Lanius nubicus* Lichtenstein) gnezdiasht vid v Bulgaria. Acta zoologica Bulgarica, 15, 115-118.; 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.); 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.; Iankov, P., Tz. Petrov, T. Michev, L. Profirov. 1996. Status of the Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) and the Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) in the Mediterranean. In: Muntaner, J. and J. Mayol (Eds.). Biology and conservation of Mediterranean Raptors, 1994. Monogr. 4. SEO, Madrid, 77-81.; 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; 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; 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; Petkov, N. 1998a. Current Status of the Ferruginous Duck (Aythya nyroca) in Bulgaria. Partimadar, 6-7, MME, Budapest, 4449.; Simeonov, S. 1970. Uber die Verbreitung mediterraner Vogelarten in Bulgarien. Die Vogelwelt., 91, 2, 59-67. 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=BG0002076&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	99.9995	BG03	5.0E-4		

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
BG03	KUPENA	+	5.0E-4

5.3 Site designation (optional)

There is only two nature monuments (rock formations) designated in 1976 covering less than 1% of the sites territory. In 1998 are appointed three CORINE Sites because of their European value for rare and threatened habitats, plant and animal species, including birds. In 2005 the site 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 Inspectorates of Environment and Water -Blagoevgrad, Smolyan; West-Aegean River Basin Directorate; Forestry Department - Garmen, Gotse Delchev, Dobriniste, Mesta; State Game-breeding Center "Dikchan"
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).