



PROJECT INFORMATION

State as at October 2010

Germany's experience in implementing EU legislation: NATURA 2000 – Management and financing



Bulgaria's mountains have a high diversity of endemic animal and plant species. Photo: A. Ssymank

Background

With 90 habitat types and 121 of the species listed in Annex II to the Flora-Fauna-Habitat Directive, Bulgaria has a rich flora and fauna in the 114 protection areas it has designated under the EU Birds Directive and its 228 areas relevant to the Habitats Directive. The Natura 2000 network in Bulgaria covers about 33.8 % of the country's total area, a share almost twice as large as that in Germany (15.4 %) and well above the EU average of about 18 %. However, this valuable natural heritage is in grave danger as there is strong investment pressure even in the national parks (some, for example, with winter sport potential, such as the Pirin Mountains) or in areas at the Black Sea coast. In the past, little account had been taken of the value of these areas and of procedures to safeguard ecological cohesion. Therefore, when Bulgaria acceded to the EU in 2007, the Bulgarian Environment Ministry (MoEW) requested assistance in the implementation of the EU Directives for establishment of the Natura 2000 network.

Project

The aim of the project was to give nature conservation actors the necessary training in the implementation of the Flora-Fauna-Habitat Directive and the Birds Directive and to thus improve the efficiency of nature conservation efforts in Bulgaria.

The primary focus of the project was on the appropriate impact assessment, management of protection areas, the required reporting, and possibilities for financing the implementation of Natura 2000. Project activities were:

- Training of over 200 Bulgarian experts in four seminars in Sofia and Varna by highly qualified trainers from Germany and Austria who have many years of practical experience, and a study visit to Germany by Bulgarian experts,
- Development of guidelines on the implementation of Art. 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive (published in Bulgarian with English-language summary),
- Preparation of a CD-ROM containing extensive tools translated into Bulgarian, and
- Publication of all materials on the project's own website.

The results of the project are thus permanently available in Bulgaria, and they strengthen co-operation in nature conservation in Europe.

- Programme: Advisory assistance programme of the German Federal Ministry of Environment
- Support code: 380 01 201
- Region: Bulgaria
- Project duration: 06/2009 – 10/2010
- Project partner: Green Balkans – Stara Zagora, www.greenbalkans.org