

National Biological Diversity Conservation  
Strategy and Action Plan  
of  
Bulgaria



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# Priorities of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2005-2010

- the establishment of the Nature 2000 network
- the adoption and implementation of the Agroecological measure
- reform in the forest sector, the acceptance of legislative changes
- institutional strengthening of biodiversity units
- improvement of the education about biodiversity conservation
- biodiversity conservation by long-term observation and assessment of the trend of change for taking preventive measures by development and maintenance of national biodiversity monitoring system
- monitoring of the management of protected areas and monitoring of wetlands
- provision of sufficient financial resource and optimization of its management

# Priorities of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2005-2010

- development and implementation of preventive measures for biodiversity conservation and compensation and incentive mechanisms
- augmentation of the rights and the responsibilities of nongovernmental organizations
- business, local authorities and branch organizations working in biodiversity sector
- integration of the biodiversity conservation policies and activities into the different economic sectors
- support of the local and regional (including transboundary) initiatives
- strengthening of the scientific base for biodiversity conservation and maintenance and use of accessible and well structured National database for biodiversity
- raising the public awareness and its undertaking in the process of decision making

# Preparatory process

## National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Bulgaria

In mid-1992, the following **five teams** developed background reports and recommendations in preparation for the workshop:

- A biological diversity team;
- An applied biological diversity team;
- A social science team;
- An NGO team;
- An information team.

In March 1993, the workshop brought together the five preparation teams. The report that resulted from the findings and recommendations was subsequently recognized as the official **National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Bulgaria.**

## Preparatory process

In 2005 was adopted the new **National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan 2005-2010**. It was developed by carrying out a series of workshops, interviews and consultations with representatives of all affected sides at national level – The Ministry of Environment and Waters, The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply, agencies, NGO, academic institutions, local authorities, etc. The threats to the biodiversity were identified and specific maintenance and conservation actions were proposed.

# Achievements in implementation of NBSAP

## INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

- **CITES**                      • **The Convention Concerning Fishing in the Waters of Danube**
- **CMS**
- **Ramsar**                      • **The Convention Concerning Fishing in the Black Sea**
- **WHC**                         • **The Convention on Protection of the Black Sea from Pollution**
- **UNFCCC**
- **UNCCD**                      • **Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.**

# **Achievements in implementation of NBSAP**

## **NATIONAL LEGISLATION**

- 1. Environmental Protection Act 2002 -**  
contemporary framework of the state policy and management
- 2. Protected Areas Act 1998**
- 3. Biodiversity Act 2002**
- 4. Medicinal Plants Act 2000**

# **Achievements in implementation of NBSAP**

## **PROTECTED AREAS ACT 1998**

### **Protected areas classification**

- **Strict reserves – 55**
- **National parks – 3**
- **Natural monuments – 346**
- **Managed reserves – 35**
- **Nature Parks – 10**
- **Protected sites – 492**



# **Achievements in implementation of NBSAP**

## **Protected Areas Act (continue)**

### **Management Plans**

- **31 approved**
- **11 in process of approval**
- **20 in process of preparation**

# **Achievements in implementation of NBSAP**

## **BIODIVERSITY ACT 2002 (BDA)**

### **NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL NETWORK: protected areas and Natura 2000 sites**

**NATURA 2000** - approximately 33.8% of the Bulgarian territory

- **114 special protected areas (SPA) in accordance with Bird Directive**
- **228 proposed Sites of Community Importance (SCI) in accordance with the Habitat Directive**

# Achievements in implementation of NBSAP

## BIODIVERSITY ACT

(continue)

- **Strictly protection for:**
  - **595** plant species
  - **480** animal species
- **Under regulated regime in use:**
  - **29** plant species
  - **54** animal species
- **35** action plans for different species
- **5** rescue centers
- **Regulations** for minimal requirements and conditions for **keeping of wild animals** and **Regulation for zoo licensing**

## **Achievements in implementation of NBSAP**

### **MEDICINAL PLANTS ACT 2000**

- **About 770 species of medicinal plants being 20% of the Bulgarian flora**
- **200 from them are currently in use**
- **250 herbs are in use of the medicine, cosmetics, and the food industry**

# **Achievements in implementation of NBSAP**

## **MEDICINAL PLANTS ACT (continue)**

### **Categories of conservation:**

- **protected species**
- **species under special regime**

### **Order for the proper usage of medicinal plants under a special regime. For 2008:**

- **10 species - regulated usage**
- **25 species - prohibited gathering for trade**

# **Achievements in implementation of NBSAP**

## **OTHER SPECIALIZED ACTS**

- **Agricultural Land Conservation Act**
- **Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act**
- **Protection of new Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds Act**
- **Forestry Act**
- **Hunting and Game Protection Act**
- **Fisheries and Aquaculture Act**
- **Veterinary Practices Act, etc.**

# **Achievements in implementation of NBSAP**

## **Implementation of the activities of the National Biodiversity Conservation Action plan 1999-2004 - national strategies, plans and programs:**

- **National Development Plan 2000-2006 (sectoral program “Environment”)**
- **National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**
- **National Plan of Priority Actions in the Most Important Wetlands**
- **National Strategy for the Environment and Action Plan 2000-2006**
- **Strategy for the Protection and restoration of Floodplain Forests on the Bulgarian Danube Islands (2001) and Action Plan for the Protection and Restoration of Floodplain Forests on the Bulgarian Danube Islands 2003-2007;**
- **National Ecotourism Strategy 2003**
- **National Forest Policy and Strategy “Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector 2003 – 2013”**
- **National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan over the 2000 - 2006 period under the EU Special Accession Program For Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD)**

# **Integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors**

Other national strategies, plans, programs concerning biodiversity:

- **Strategy for Sustainable Development of Republic of Bulgaria, 2007**
- **National Development Plan of Republic of Bulgaria over the 2007-2013 period**
- **National Strategy for the Environment 2005-2014 and Action Plan 2005-2009**
- **Operational Programme “Environment 2007 – 2013”**
- **Rio Conventions Project**
- **National Forest Policy and Strategy**
- **National agroecology program 2007-2013**
- **National Strategy Plan for Rural Development (2007 –2013)**
- **Project “Sustainable Rural Development”**
- **National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan**



# Integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors

- **weak interdepartmental connection**
- organization of **working group** to improve the informational exchange between the departments relevant to biodiversity conservation
- Bulgarian Biodiversity Portal - a part of CHM (Clearing House Mechanism)

# Goals of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2005-2010

## Long-term strategic goal:

Conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity in the state for establishment of optimal conditions, environment and perspectives for life of the people

## Strategic goal of the Plan:

Halt the loss of biodiversity in Bulgaria to 2010 and beyond.

## Operative goals:

- Conservation and recovery of species, habitats, ecosystems and landscapes.

Conservation of genetic diversity and biosafety

- Maximal integration of the biodiversity concerns into the national ecological and sectoral legislation and into the national politics and programs

- Sustainable use of biological resources

- *Integration of biodiversity concerns into the agricultural sector*
- *Conservation of BD by sustainable management of the forests*
- *Conservation and sustainable use of fish resources*
- *Optimization of the policy of Bulgaria regarding international trade in biological resources*
- *Development of sustainable tourism*

- Mitigation of the climate changes and adaptation of the biodiversity to the climate changes

# Evaluation of the NBSAP

## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY MONITORING SYSTEM

- complex mechanism for monitoring and assessment of long-term changes in biodiversity of Bulgaria
- information basis for implementation of the national nature conservation policy (in particular - assessment of the effectiveness of implementation of the activities foreseen in The National Biodiversity Conservation Plan)
- The Executive Environment Agency - designing and managing the National System for Environmental Monitoring, including the National Biodiversity Monitoring System

THANK YOU!