

***Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity***

***Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.***

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Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	25/12/2003

***Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.***

#### ***I. Include Agencies/ Institutions***

- MOEPP: Agency for Environment , Division of Biological Diversity and Division of the Protected Areas Conservation ; State Inspectorate of Environment, Skopje
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy: Department of Forestry , Skopje
- Head Office the National Parks and Hunting reserves in Macedonia: Management of the National Park “Pelister” Bitola; Management of the NP “Mavrovo” Gostivar and Management of the NP “Galicica” Ohrid;
- Management of the Strict Natural Reserve “Ezerani” Resen;
- Management of the Strict Natural Reserve “Tikvesh” Kavadarci;
- Management of the Nature Monument “Canyon Matka” Skopje.
- Faculty of Natural Science, Institute of Biology, Skopje;
- Faculty of Forestry, Skopje;
- Macedonian Museum of Natural History, Skopje;
- Hydrobiological Institute, Ohrid.

#### ***II. Reports/ Publications***

- National Report of Status of Conservation of Biological Diversity in Protected Areas of the Republic of Macedonia (Authors: Nastov A, M.A & Dr B.Micevski, University Professor, DBD/AEP/MOEPP & MRC/BSPSM, Skopje, 1994), publ.: UNEP/ROE, Geneva, Switzerland.
- National Reports (1-3) for implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Republic of Macedonia, (Authors: Nastov A, M.A & Dr B.Micevski, University Professor, DBD/AE/MOEPP & MRC/BSPSM, Skopje, 1996, 1999, 2002), publ.: Documents, IRB, Gland, Switzerland.
- National Reports (1-2) for the implementation of the Bonn Convention in the Republic of Macedonia, (Authors: Nastov A, M.A. & Dr B.Micevski, University Professor, DBD/AE/MOEPP and MRC/BSPSM, Skopje, 1999, 2002), publ.: CMS/UNEP, Bonn, Germany.
- National Reports (1-3) for Implementation of the AEWA in the Republic of Macedonia, (Authors: Nastov A, M.A & Dr B. Micevski, University Professor, DBD/AE/MOEPP, MBC & BSPSM Skopje, 1999, 2002, publ.: AEWA/UNEP, Bonn, Germany.
- National Reports (1-3) for the implementation of EUROBATS in the Republic of Macedonia, (Authors: Nastov A, M.A. & Dr S. Petkovski, DBD/AE/MOEPP, MMNH & MBC, 1995, 2000, 2003), publ.: EUROBATS/ UNEP, Bonn, Germany.
- Country Study of Status of Biological Diversity in the Republic of Macedonia (First National Report), Authors: Dr Matevski V., University Professor, Dr Micevski B, University Professor, Dr Petkovski S. & Dr Stojanovski P., University Professor. (This Study is part of the process of preparation of the National Strategy for Biological Diversity and Action Plan, project of Macedonian Government/MOEPP & UN/GEF/WB).
- National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), 12, ‘Conservation of Biological Diversity in Protected Areas’, MUCEP, Skopje. pp. 1-76.
- Master Plan of the Republic of Macedonia, Sectoral Study ‘Conservation of the Natural Heritage’ MOEPP, Skopje, 2003, pp. 1-220.

**Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity**

**System of protected areas**

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?				
a) High	x	b) Medium		c) Low
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?				
a) no				
b) in early stages of development				x
c) in advanced stages of development				
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process				
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?				
a) no				
b) an assessment is being planned for				x
c) an assessment is being undertaken				
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made				

**Regulatory framework**

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	x
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents	
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	x
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets	

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	x
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

**Management approach**

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	x
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	x
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	x
10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	x
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	

11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	x

**Available resources**

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	x
d) yes, good resources are available	
13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	x

**Assessment**

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	x
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	x
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	
16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is planned	x
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	

**Regional and international cooperation**

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighboring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	x
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	
c) information is not available	x
19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognized or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them.	
21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	x

**Further comments**

Answer 9 c): Changes of natural characteristics in protected areas: the coasts of the Lake Ohrid (inc. in UNESCO List), Lake Prespa (Ramsar site incl. in Ramsar List); Strict Natural Reserve 'Ezerani', SNR 'Tikvesh'; National Park 'Mavrovo', NP 'Galicica', Natural Monument 'Demirkapiska Klisura', NM 'Drenovska Klisura', NM 'Canyon Matka'; SNR 'Katlanovsko Blato', 'Monospitovsko Blato', etc.

Answer 11 c): In Macedonia there are two protected areas established and managed by non-governmental bodies: Strict Natural Reserve 'Ezerani', managed by the Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia (under the Decision of the Macedonian Government), and the Natural Monument 'Canyon Matka', managed by the Speleological Society 'PEONI' (under the Decision of the Council of the City Skopje).

Answer 12 c): The human, institutional and financial resources are very limited for full implementation of the protected areas network (including for management of individual protected areas). Our State Budget has not been able to support this activities with financial resources. Management bodies of two Strict Natural Reserves, three National Parks and several natural Monuments have implemented measures for nature conservation only from their own very limited resources.

Answer 13 d): In Macedonia several bodies requested and received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility and other international sources for management of protected areas. Funding has been received by the Coordinative Committee of Transboundary Park 'Prespa'; Management of the integral conservation of Lake Ohrid (GEF/WB, the Government; preparation of the Action Management Plan of the National Park 'Pelister' (financial support by the Government of Switzerland), Italy, etc.

Answer 14 b): The constraints to the implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas have been assessed and actions have been initiated in the SNR ‘Ezerani’, NP ‘Pelister’, NP ‘Galicica’, NP ‘Mavrovo’ and NM ‘Canyon Matka’.

Answer 17 b): Macedonia has collaboration and communication with neighboring countries in the establishment and management of transboundary protected areas. Good examples are Memoranda of Understanding with Albanian Government in the management of integral conservation of Lake Ohrid and MoU with Albanian and Greek Government in the management of transboundary Park ‘Prespa’.

Answer 20: We have document for including two protected areas: the Lake Ohrid (the UNECCO Convention/ CWH), and the Lake Prespa and its coasts (the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands).

Answer 21: We maintain that all information and details included in this Questionnaire have applicative function of good management in the protected areas. Information and data collection has been included in web-site of the CWH, RCW, CMS, CBD and BC/CE and other Contracting Parties will be in a position to get this information.

*(Continue. from p.2)*

- Anastasovski V. (2002): The Natural Heritage of Pelister. Papers from the Scientific Symposium ‘Pelister and the opportunities for development of the tourism and ecological protection on sub-Pelister villages’, Society of Science and Art-Bitola, National Park Pelister. IV: 75-84.
- Matevski V. & M. Kostadinovski (1996): Review of Plant species with locus classicus within the areas of three National Parks in the Republic of Macedonia. Balkan Conference, Ohrid, 1996.
- Micevski B. (2000). CORINE Biotopes – LIST Files of Macedonian CORINE Sites. Zoological Dept., Institute of Biology, Faculty of Natural Science, Skopje.
- Nastov A., Caloska M. & R.Brajanoska (2001): Biological and Landscape Diversity and possibility for development of the Eco-tourism, Papers from the Scientific Symposium ‘Pelister and the opportunities for development of the tourism and ecological protection on sub-Pelister villages’, Society of Science and Art-Bitola, National Park Pelister. Bitola, IV: 65-74.