

За Да Остане ПРИРОДА [®]



Кампания за опазване на защитените зони и територии в България



For the Nature Coalition

United by an idea...

Establishment, Activities, Joint Work

www.forthenature.org



Jordanka Dineva



**BULGARIAN
BIODIVERSITY
FOUNDATION**

ЗаДаОстанеПРИРОДА®



Bulgaria

- 111 000 km²
- 8 million people
- 20 years transition period to democracy
- Market economy?
- EU member state since 2007
- Civil society in development

- Still having nature...



-
-



ity

total an
ropea



© B. Assyov & R. Vassilev

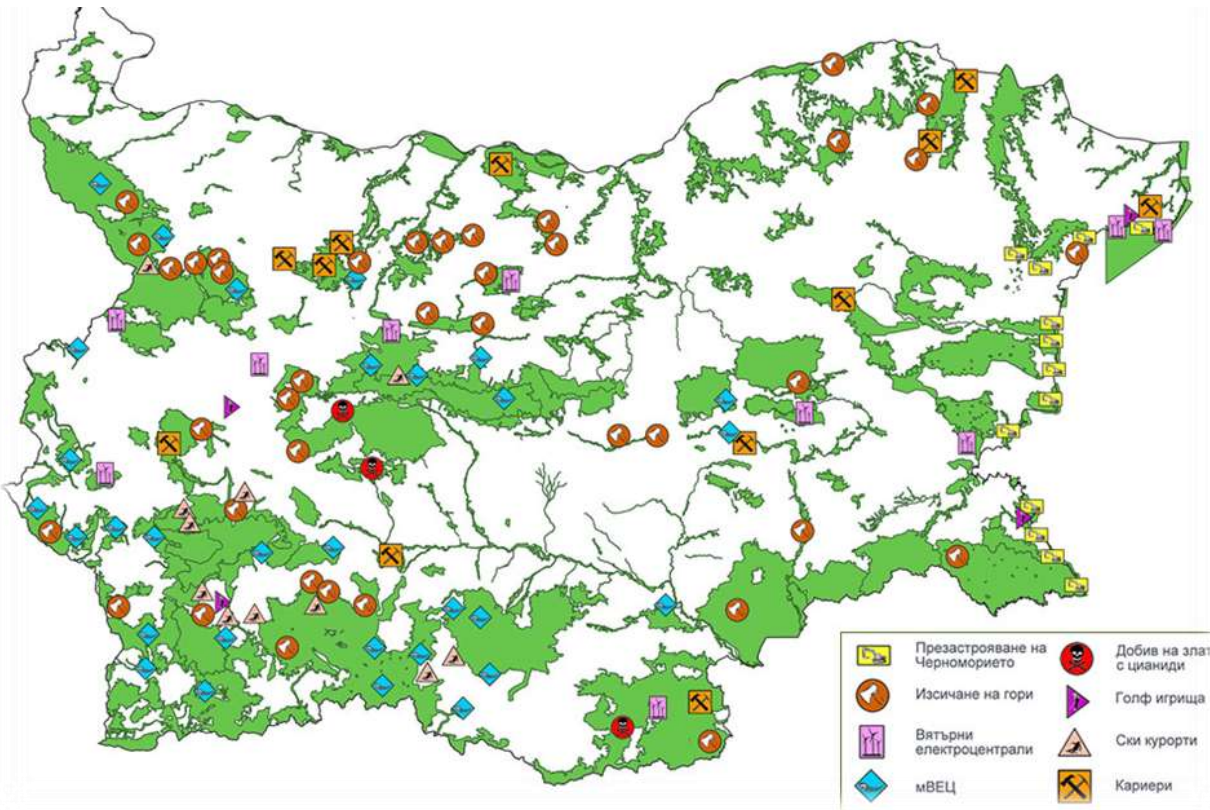


© B. Assyov & R. Vassilev





Reasons for Establishment of For the Nature Coalition



Map of threats to nature in future NATURA 2000 areas

- Many different **threats** to nature occurring at once in all parts of Bulgaria (future **NATURA 2000** areas)
- **Institutions** seemed not to be working. They are even more cooperative to companies and people, destroying nature.
- Increasing **public awareness** and campaigns for saving nature
- Existing **experience** of collaboration of the environmental NGOs on specific problems



Threats to Nature



- Overdevelopment
- Golf playgrounds
- Yacht ports
- Ski resorts
- Cyanides
- Wind mills and water power plants
- Deforestation
- Poaching
- **NEW** Shale gas extraction



Ski resorts



Our mountains....





Ski resorts



...and our “green” ski resorts





Black sea

Our Black sea coast









Wind mills on *Via pontica* bird migration road and valuable steppic habitats





Poaching





<http://www.nalov.com>



<http://www.nalov.com>



<http://www.nalov.com>



Threats to nature have direct impact and relation to PEOPLE



- Destroyed nature means NO clean air, water and food
- The more silent we are, the more nobody will hear us
- State laws must be observed





Threats to nature have direct impact and relation to economy

- Big investor develops the future of local people
- EU funds, which supported municipalities and public initiatives, are already stopped
- Decrease in real estate market, disappointed buyers



For the Nature Coalition



- From 10 nature protection NGOs in 2006 to an union of over 60 organizations, civic groups and a lot of volunteers of different background
- Informal structure with written rules
- Voluntary structure of independent organizations and individuals
- Sharing work and responsibilities
- Joining both experts and citizens experience



Бъдеще сега



gorichka.bg



COOPERATION FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE BULGARIA

www.DaSpasimIrakli.org





Goals

- Nature conservation and sustainable development of regions
- Increasing the belief of people in their own strengths to change the world
- Law enforcement and state institutions to work properly



Mission

For the Nature Coalition is an independent, nonpolitical coalition of NGOs and civil groups that fights for nature conservation through support to civil society in Bulgaria and compliance with legislation. The Coalition defends Earth and people pulling together the activities of its members concerning its objectives, mobilize civil society groups and experts, conduct information and education campaigns and lobbies for the creation and implementation of environmental policy. And all this expertise, ethical and artistic.



Activity of the Coalition

Working in 3 directions:

- Bulgarian authorities
- Wide Public
- International level





Work with Bulgarian authorities

- Tens of letters sent to Bulgarian institutions related to their responsibility and legal status
- Lobbying: meetings with Minister of Environment and Water, deputies, Council of Ministers, representatives of the Government
- Complaints to the Prosecutor Office and Court Cases
- Forming of NGO/state institution “working groups” on specific problems



Activities for Wide Public Involvement

- **Petitions** – more than 10 petitions, the most successful gathered 180 000 signatures
- **Public actions** – over 100, including demonstrations, art events, protests, concerts, informational campaigns, public discussions
- **Media involvement** - press releases, press conferences, journalists tours, events
- **Involvement of famous people**
- **Video clips and movies**
- **Photo competitions**





Collaboration with International authorities

European Commission

- **Meetings** with the European Commissioner and representatives of EU Commission
- **Written statements** and complaints on specific problems (NATURA 2000, Irakli, Strandja, Rila) - 10 submitted complaints
- **Public actions** – e.g. petition submission in Brussels





European Parliament

- Sending petitions to European Committee of Petitions
- Welcome European deputies on site visits to endangered areas
- European deputies raise questions in EU Parliament





Collaboration with International authorities

- **International/Foreign media involvement** (e.g. ARTE, BBC, Euronews, Financial Times, Guardian) – publications, visits of international reporters to endangered areas
- **Support from Bulgarian emigrants** – articles in foreign and emigrants 'communities magazines
- **Support from international environmental networks and NGOs**

Communication channels

Between the members:

- INFORMAL coalition – Written rules
- Face to face meetings
- On line discussions

Towards wide public:

- Web site (500 to 5000 visits/day)
- Informative mailing list (10 000 subscribers)



Financing of the Campaign



- Projects of the coalition – 110 000 Euro 2006-2011
- Projects of members of the coalition
- Daily Voluntary participation of both experts and citizens
- Donations – 4500 Euro
- Business?



Successful results

- 34 % NATURA 2000 protected areas in Bulgaria
- Saving Strandja Nature Parks when the Supreme Court announced it invalid in 2006.
- Stopping land swaps of forests through law change
- Stopping the extension of hunting period for waterfowls ...twice
- European attention (and hopefully control) – 7 infringement procedures started over our complaints



Thank you for the attention!

**Jordanka Dineva,
Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation
For the Nature Coalition**

jordanka.dineva@biodiversity.bg

