

From IBAs to SPAs

the process of SPA designation in Bulgaria



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EU Legislation and NATURA 2000



Habitats Directive



Annex 1
Habitats

Annex II:
Species
1992



National List
pSCI's



SCI's



SAC's



**NATURA
2000**

Birds Directive



Annex 1 and other
migratory species



SPAs designated





Bird Directive 79/409/EEC

Article 4 says:

“The species mentioned in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.”

“Member States shall classify in particular the most suitable territories in number and size as special protection areas for the conservation of these species, taking into account their protection requirements in the geographical sea and land area where this Directive applies.” (Criteria C1, C2, C5 and C6)

What is an SPA?

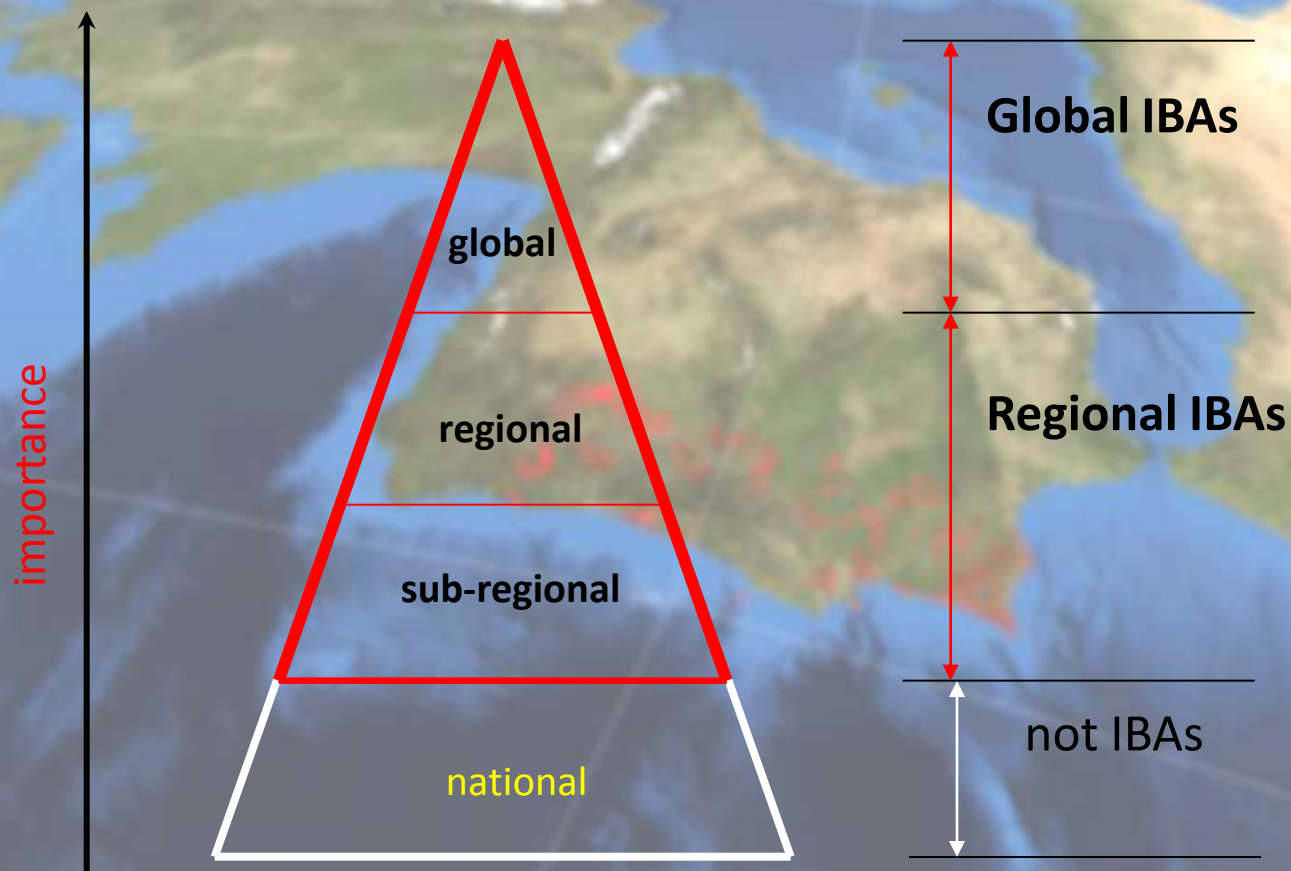
How the IBA criteria relate to the identification of Special Protection Areas under the EC Bird Directive?

SPAs are IBAs of European importance

- Conserve bird populations of European importance;
- Application of quantity and quality criteria representative of EU scale
- Criteria approved by ORNIS committee, elaborated and proposed by BirdLife International.



IBA – pyramid of importance



The process of completion of the IBA network was accomplished in line with:

- Scientific criteria and procedures, applied by BirdLife International
- Strategy for setting European ecological network NATURA 2000

According to these the process of IBA selection went through three main steps:

- Analysis of the existing information and gaps
- Filling the gaps in the information
- Evaluation and selection of IBAs

Elements of a strategy for putting a national Natura 2000 network in place

- ❑ Establishing the process, which is about things like agreeing the scientific basis and the role of IBA information in that;
- ❑ Establishing the mechanisms, which is about how to create SPA designations and whether you can use something which exists already or need to create something new;
- ❑ Establishing the network itself, which involves questions about the adequacy of coverage, and how to know whether you have enough sites of the right type.



- **BSPB – identification of SPAs and preparation of documentation**

IBA and NATURA2000 national coordinator and project leader

database manager

GIS expert

+ 130 volunteers for fieldwork and expert team of 11 persons for analysis and evaluation

+ expert help of BirdLife International and RSPB

+ cooperation with ROS /BirdLife Romania



- **NNPS / MoEW – financial security of work and logistic help**

Head of NNPS - general aspects, communication with the Minister

expert – contact person; GIS aspects and communication with MAF

NATURA2000 expert - NATURA 2000 software

expert – information on Protected areas

Director of the EMAPE - financial aspects



- **MAF – official land Cadastre information on GIS**

expert - preparation and providing of the cadastre information

- **NATURA2000 project / Green Balkans – coordination between the projects**

project leader - continuous exchange of information

- **Scientific Institutions – discussions on site boundaries and data**

BAS - Institute of Ecology /S. Nikolov/, Institute of Zoology /Dr P. Shurulinkov, N. Karaivanov, B. Nikolov

Faculty of Biology of the Sofia University – R. Tsonev; National Nature History Museum – T. Stefanov

- **NGOs – discussions on site boundaries and data providing**

Wilderness Fund /J. Spiridonov/; Birds of Prey Protection Society /G.Stoyanov/;

“Balkani” Wildlife Society /I. Nikolov, S. Velkov, I. Hristov/

Key aspects of the process

- Transposition of the legal requirements into the national legislation
- Adoption of the Annexes
- Identification of SPAs/SACs
- Boundary setting of SPAs/SACs
- Setting of conservation measures and policies for implementation
- Information dissemination of Natura 2000
- Designation of SPAs/SACs
- Creating implementation capacity and institutions

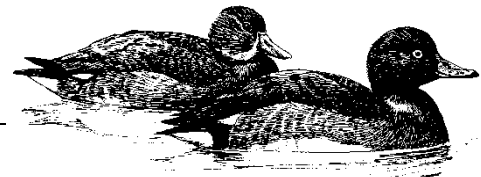
Key players involved

- Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
- Other ministries and their regional structures
- District administrations
- Municipalities and other local governments
- Scientific institutions, including universities
- NGOs, local groups
- Farming cooperatives and trade branch organisations
- Media
- Parliament

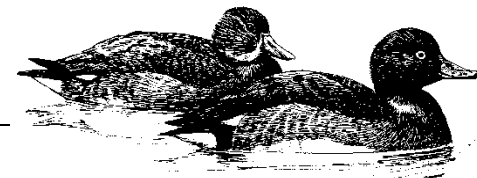
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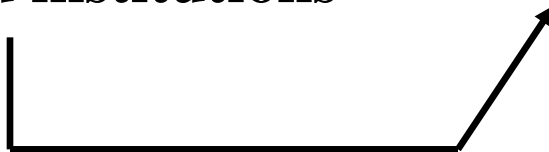
- ▶ Preparation of the proposals for the new legal documents (laws, regulations, etc.)
- ▶ Prepare the proposals for amendments to the annexes of Bird and Habitat Directive
- ▶ Coordinate the process and ensure its financial and logistic security
- ▶ Provide information




- **Setting of conservation measures and policies for implementation**
 - **Information dissemination on Natura 2000**
 - **Designation of SPAs/SACs**
 - **Creating implementation capacity and institutions**
- ▶ Coordinate the process and ensure its financial and logistic security
 - ▶ Implement information campaign – materials, meetings, consultations
 - ▶ Ensure all the process of designation of the SPAs/SACs
 - ▶ Create all the necessary mechanism; fundraising



- **Boundary setting of SPAs/SACs**
- **Setting of conservation measures and policies for implementation**
- **Information dissemination on Natura 2000**
- **Designation of SPAs/SACs**
- **Creating implementation capacity and institutions**



- ▶ Provide information
- ▶ Organize discussions on the conservation measures that will be financed under the National Rural Development Programme and develop all the procedures for setting compensation mechanism
- ▶ Provide information on Natura 2000 measures
- ▶ Participate in discussions, consultations
- ▶ Create capacity to implementation Natura 2000 measures

- **Setting of conservation measures and policies for implementation**
 - **Information dissemination on Natura 2000**
 - **Designation of SPAs/SACs**
 - **Creating implementation capacity and institutions**
- 
- Incorporate the conservation measures in their policies and regulations
 - Provide information on Natura 2000
 - Participate in discussions, consultations
 - Create capacity to implement Natura 2000 in their policies

- **Transposition of the legal requirements into the national legislation**
- **Adoption of the Annexes**
- **Identification of SPAs/SACs**
- **Boundary setting of SPAs/SACs**

- Involvement in preparation and discussions of the legal acts
- Propose to MoEW the species and habitats for inclusion in the annexes
- Setting species/habitat lists
- Analysis of data; field survey; data analysis
- Identification of sites; application of criteria
- Propose to MoEW full scientific arguments for sites

- **Setting of conservation measures and policies for implementation**
- **Information dissemination on Natura 2000**
- **Designation of SPAs/SACs**

- Propose conservation measures according to ecological requirements of species / habitats
- Provide data for information materials
- Participation in public discussions, consultations



- **Transposition of the legal requirements into the national legislation**
- **Adoption of the Annexes**
- **Identification of SPAs/SACs**
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- Propose conservation measures according to ecological requirements of species / habitats
- Provide data for information materials; run information campaigns
- Participation in public discussions, consultations

Information analysis

Data collection

The identification of the IBA/SPA network is based entirely on scientific criteria for selection of Important Bird Area, on the available ornithological information, as well as on targeted collecting of information in cases of outdated information or insufficiently studied areas

Data collection

Scope of the study

- Geographical area – whole territory of the country; approaches used:
 - inclusion of sites already recognized as internationally important (existing IBAs, Ramsar Sites)
 - review and inclusion of territories, recognized as internationally important for their biodiversity, including birds (CORINE Sites)
 - review and inclusion of protected areas
 - review and inclusion of territories with potential value for birds
 - targeted survey of territories, identified on the basis of the breeding birds mapping project, for better coverage of bird populations
 - review of old data for valuable sites as a starting point for searching for potential valuable territories

Data collection

- Scope of the species study
 - Species listed in Annex I of the Bird Directive, for which SPA should be designated. Steps for selection of species:
 - determine Annex I species, that occur in the country and exclude those not occurring in Bulgaria;
 - exclude (re-)introduced species;
 - exclude all vagrants and other irregularly occurring species;
 - mark species which do not make use of predictable sites or habitats;
 - mark common species which are occurring widespread and dispersed over extensive areas of continuous habitats in the country;
 - identify sedentary species with similar distribution patterns all year;
 - mark migratory species which do not regularly breed;
 - identify the migratory species with similar distributions in the relevant seasons;
 - repeat steps 3, 4 and 5 for the remaining migratory species of Annex 1 separately for breeding and non-breeding occurrences

Data collection

- Migratory species not listed in Annex I of the BD
 - List all waterbird species for which wetlands of international importance can be identified;
 - list regularly occurring migratory seabird species (not included in Annex I) (not relevant to Kosovo);
 - include other regularly occurring, congregatory species (non Annex I). The rationale of inclusion of these species is that their congregatory behavior (breeding colonies, during migration and/or during the winter season) leads to vulnerability so there is a clear “need for protection” even though many of those species are not threatened;
 - select regularly occurring migratory SPECs 1–3 (not included in Annex I) and migratory national red list species (non Annex I) for which site based conservation measures could be effective

Data collection

Period of the study

According to the requirements of the European Commission, it is necessary to take only data from the last 10-year period when selecting NATURA 2000 sites in order to avoid using very old or historical data.

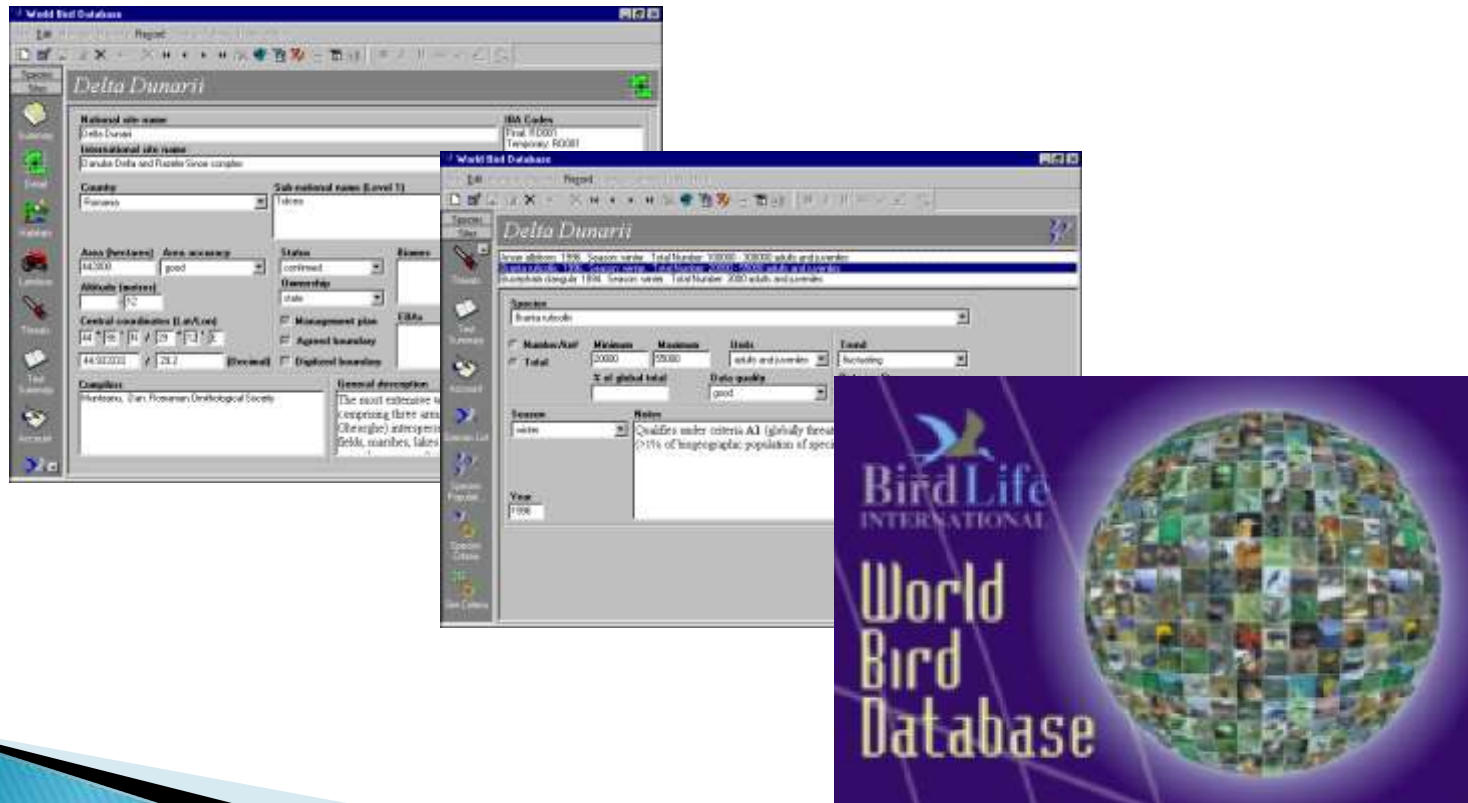
In Bulgaria, the study comprises the period 1990 – 2005. Bird data from 1990 to 1996 was used only for making a more comprehensive evaluation of sites, which were not included in the first IBA book. The principles used for determination of the study period were:

- Use of contemporary information
- Study period of at least 3 years
- Prolonged monitoring of the populations in order to determine tendencies
- Reporting of the breeding periods, migration and wintering periods

Sources of data

○ Databases

- National Bird Data Bank (NBDB) - *BSPB*
- World Bird Database (WBDB) - *BirdLife International*
- CORINE Biotopes database – MOEW
- Red List of IUCN (2006) – internet based database



Sources of data

○ Other sources

- CORINE Landcover 2000
- Cadastre of restituted land (CRL) 1:5000 scale
- Topographic maps 1:25000 scale (+ orthorectified)
- Satellite imagery
- GIS



Types of data

- For each IBA, key data have been collected on:
 - Location
 - Bird species
 - Reasons or importance
 - Habitats and land-use
 - Threats
 - Protection status
 - Conservation action

Tools for data collection

- Data form (paper and electronic questionnaire) for each site
- Computer database

For the purposes of the whole research process, the analysis and assessment, four types of forms were developed, which were available in electronic format and on paper:

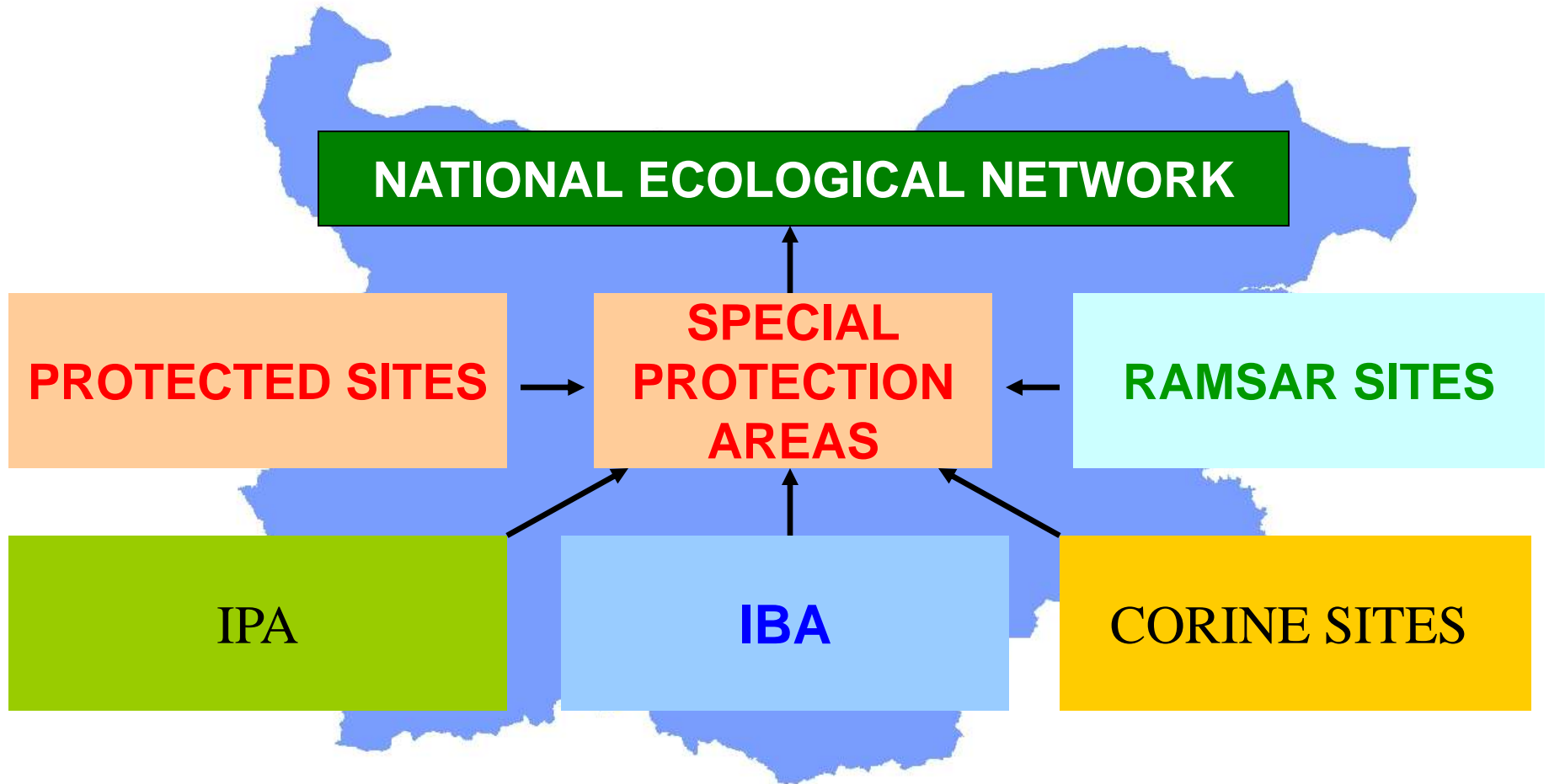
- Site description form;
- Primary data processing form;
- Information protocol;
- Form for vulnerability, use and propositions and regimes in IBA

Gaps identification. Needs assessment

The assessment of the needs have to be done for each species/habitat type. For each of them it should give requirements on:

- If its necessary to check the existing data on field or do more survey in the proposed sites. In which sites t is need to be done? During what season?;
- Are the proposed sites enough to protect the species on national level? Should additional sites have to be identified? Is there preliminary data where these sites could be identified?

*Bulgaria in EU and NATURA 2000
(Accession 01.01.2007)*



Biological diversity in Bulgaria

Role of Bulgaria in biodiversity conservation

- ***Second country by biodiversity richness in Europe***
- ***Holds 75% of bird species in Europe***
- ***22 globally threatened species***

75% of the global Red-Breasted Goose population

17% of the Imperial Eagle population at EU level

61% of the Semi collared Flycatcher at EU level

- ***One of the two big migration flyways - Via Pontica:***

70% of the global White Stork population - migrating

100% of the European White Pelican population - migrating

40% of the European Lesser Spotted Eagle - migrating

**3 biogeographic
regions**



1989

Bulgaria joins the Important Bird Areas programme of BirdLife International for the first time with the publication of information about 22 sites in the book from 1989.



1997

50 IBAs were identified, described in the book published in 1997 “Important Bird Areas in Bulgaria”.

The described IBAs were also published in the second edition of the Important Bird Areas in Europe in 2000



2007

In the period 2003-2005, as result of a thorough analysis of the existing information, dedicated research of the least known territories, and monitoring of sites, basing on more than 4 million birdwatching records and 173 scientific publications, 114 IBAs were identified. In addition to the team of 12 experts, 130 ornithological experts and volunteers took part in this study, mainly in field research

IBAs in Bulgaria – Current situation

114 IBAs

~ 26 000 km²

(23% of country territory + 540 km² sea)

Species range

Species in Annex 1 of BD – 87

(bigger number than in other EU member states)

Migrating species – 90

Congregatory species – adequate coverage

Migratory species populations/bottle neck sites –
adequate by Black Sea Coast sites

National and international conservation status

- 433 Protected sites - 20%
- 85 CORINE sites - 56%
- 10 RAMSAR sites - 0.8%
- 16 Biosphere reserves - 1.6%
- 2 World heritage sites - 1.3%

Ornithological Importance

- Global importance - 87 sites
- European importance - 91 sites
- EU importance:
 - C1 - 69 sites
 - C4 - 42 sites
 - C5 - 94 sites
 - C7 – 10 sites
 - C8 - 18 sites

IBA network coverage

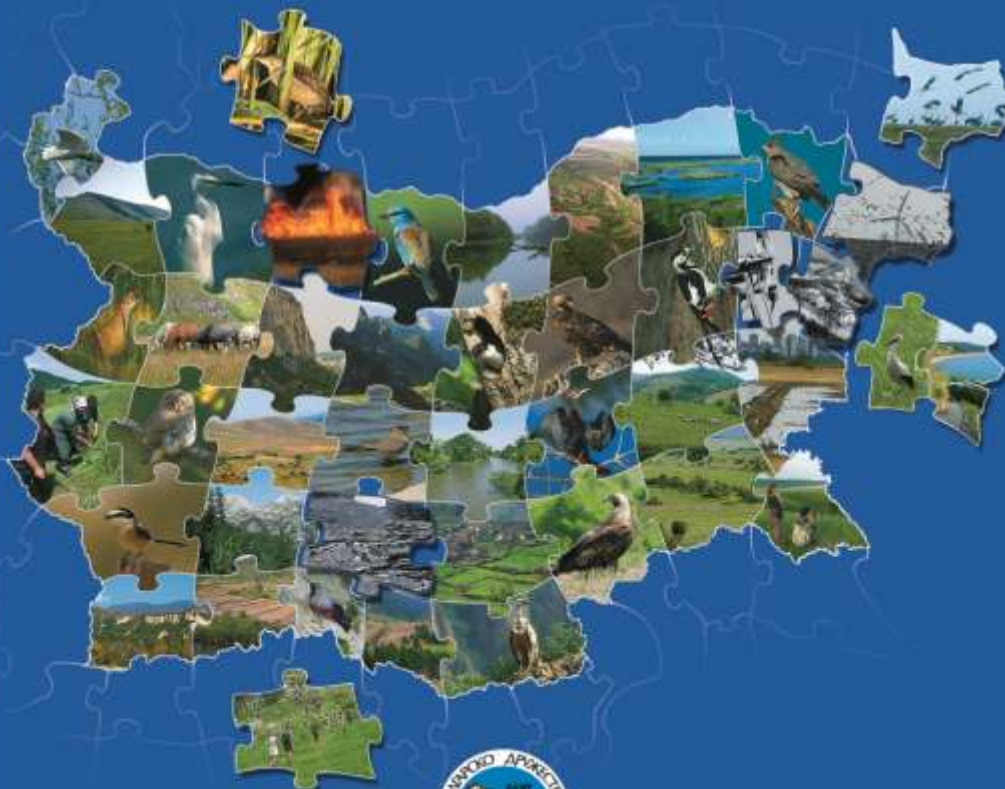
forest - 52%
arable and - 40%
sea - 2%
wetlands - 2%
other - 4%

ИВА
App

Българско дружество за защита на птиците
Природозащитна поредица – Книга 11

ОРНИТОЛОГИЧНО ВАЖНИ МЕСТА В БЪЛГАРИЯ И НАТУРА 2000

Ирвѝа Костадинова
Младен Граматиков



nd
ria



SPA Network Establishment in Bulgaria

