

Interreg - IPA CBC
Bulgaria - Turkey



PARTNERSHIP



JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE CROSS- BORDER REGION

Project CB005.2.12.075: "Revitalization of abandoned landfills" is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Program for cross-border cooperation Bulgaria - Turkey.



The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Maxima Center for Education and Scientific Cooperation and can in no way reflect the views of the European Union, or the Managing Authority and the National Authority of the Program.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction. General Information	4
1. Context for the development of the Plan	4
2. Justification of the need to develop the Plan	4
3. Scope of the cross-border area in the context of the Cross-border Cooperation Program (CBC) - Bulgaria-Turkey 2014-2020	5
II. ANALYSIS OF THE APPLICABLE POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK. OVERVIEW OF EXISTING POLICIES.....	6
1. European environmental policy. Strategic framework.....	6
2. State policy of Bulgaria in the field of environment.....	8
3. Turkish state policy in the field of environment.....	11
4. Review of the EU legal and policy framework for both the environment and key elements of the environment	12
4.1. Air and climate.....	12
4.3. Water	13
4.4. Soils.....	14
4.5. Population and human health.....	15
4.6. Cultural/natural heritage and landscape	15
4.7. Review of the EU legal and policy framework for both countries related to biodiversity, fauna, and flora, in the context of this Plan	16
5. NATURA 2000.....	18
5.1. General information. Nature and meaning.....	18
5.2. Natura 2000 in Bulgaria	19
III. ANALYSIS OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE REGION. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS	20
1. Geographical characteristics of the cross-border region	20
1.1. General information	20
1.2. General review of the target trans-boundary region in the context of Plan	20



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

2. Scope and description of shared natural resources.....	22
2.1. Strandzha Mountain	22
2.2. Derventa hills	25
2.3. Longoz forests in Strandzha	27
3. Specifics of protected natural areas in the cross-border region	27
3.1. Protected natural territories and zones on the part of the Yambol district	27
3.2. Natural resources and protected areas in the Turkish part of the cross-border region.....	64
IV. CURRENT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CROSS-BORDER REGION	70
1. Analysis of the state of the components of the natural environment.....	70
1.1. Air and climate.....	70
1.2. Water	73
1.3. Soils.....	78
2. Main environmental problems in the cross-border region	80
3. Environmental issues investigated within the project framework	82
3.1. Analysis of the results of the project activities implemented so far	82
3.2. State of the waste system in the cross-border region	85
V. OVERVIEW OF GOOD PRACTICES (COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS)	88
1. Reduction of environmental pollution	88
2. International initiatives for environmental education	89
3. Good practices in the Natura 2000 network.....	93
4. Good practices for improving civic participation in the processes of formulation, implementation, and monitoring of national policies regarding the management of NATURA 2000 in Bulgaria.....	95
5. Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills” as an example of good practice.....	98
VI. STRATEGIC PART. JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	99
1. Concept - short-term and long-term vision for enhanced protection of natural resources	99



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

2. SWOT analysis.....	100
3. Priorities for management and conservation of protected areas in the cross-border region.....	104
4. Defining the goals. Strategic and operational objectives.....	104
4.1. Purpose and tasks of the plan	104
4.2. Strategic and operational goals	105
5. Action plan.....	107
VII. Possible sources of funding for the proposed activities	134
1. Opportunities for EU funding within the programming period 2021-2027	134
1.1. Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF)	134
1.2 The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	134
1.3 Transboundary Operational programs.....	134
1.4. The program for the environment for the programming period 2021-2027	134
1.5. EUprogram LIFE.....	136
2. National sources of funding	136
3. Bilateral cooperation programs	137
4. Private investment and payments for ecosystem services	137
VII. CONCLUSION.....	137

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

I. INTRODUCTION. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Context for the development of the Plan



The plan for joint management of protected areas in the common cross-border region (the "Plan") was developed to implement **Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills,"** co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria-Turkey.

The plan focuses on specific areas (common natural resources), which are essential resources for the cross-border region and, when properly managed, can generate many benefits for the countries, regions, and stakeholders (citizens, businesses, tourists, children, and more).

The plan was developed following the EU Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy / 2017 and the ecological network Natura 2000; European environmental



policy, as well as the local, regional and national legal framework and strategic policies of both countries (Bulgaria and Turkey).

The purpose of this Plan is to be an instrument for the preservation and management of protected areas in the cross-border region and the biodiversity in it.

The period of validity of the Plan is **seven years (2021-2027)**. In developing this document, the authors have considered the new programming period and the resulting national and European funding for the recommended activities and measures.

2. Justification of the need to develop the Plan

The need to develop a Plan for joint management of protected areas in the common cross-border region lies in the fact that environmental problems and their impact are closely interrelated and exceed national borders. Although individual efforts (according to each state's specific sovereignty in the field of the environment) are essential, consolidated action is needed to take effective and proportionate measures that can lead to sustainable change.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Also, the protection of natural resources in the protected areas, conservation of biological diversity, and natural habitats will be directly covered in the scope and focus of the following programming period (2021 - 2027), which envisages the provision of funds for measures related to the development of the Natura 2000 network; measures aimed at improving the conservation status of natural habitats and species (including birds) subject to conservation in the Natura 2000 network, measures to protect/restore ecosystems and their inherent biodiversity with a focus on improving ecosystems and ecosystem services and providing the connectivity of the Natura 2000 network; measures for capacity building of the departments, incl. training responsible for management and implementation of biodiversity and Natura 2000 management policies **(a project of OP "Environment" 2021 - 2027, PRIORITY 3 "Biodiversity")**



3. Scope of the cross-border area in the context of the Cross-border Cooperation Program (CBC) - Bulgaria-Turkey 2014-2020



The cross-border area within the Cross-Border Cooperation Program (CBC) under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Bulgaria-Turkey 2014-2020 is located in Southeast Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula. It includes the NUTS III-eligible **districts of Burgas, Yambol, and Haskovo. The Republic of Bulgaria** and the NUTS III equivalent provinces of **Edirne and Kırklareli in the Republic of Turkey**. The eligible area is about 29,000 sq. km, and the common border of the two countries is 288 km long (including three existing border checkpoints), with a total population of 1.5 million inhabitants (784,480 inhabitants in the Bulgarian eligible program area and 742,000 inhabitants in the Turkish eligible program area). The eligible district in Bulgaria represents 14.99% of the country's total territory, and respectively the eligible region in Turkey represents 1.58% of the country's whole territory.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

II. ANALYSIS OF THE APPLICABLE POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK. OVERVIEW OF EXISTING POLICIES

The main policy framework at the European, macro-regional, and national level is addressed as follows:

1. European environmental policy. Strategic framework

1.1. Europe 2020: A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

The Europe 2020 strategy is shared among the European institutions, the Member States, and the social partners to take the necessary action to help achieve the Europe 2020 goals. The strategy highlights three mutually reinforcing priorities:

- ♣ **Smart growth:** building an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- ♣ **Sustainable growth:** promoting the more efficient use of resources, a greener, and more competitive economy
- ♣ **Inclusive growth:** stimulating an economy with high employment, social and territorial cohesion.

1.2. The European strategy for territorial cooperation and the role of cross - border cooperation

The European Territorial Agenda 2020 identifies some key challenges and opportunities for territorial development. These include increased exposure to globalization, demographic change, social and economic isolation, climate change, and biodiversity loss, all relevant to the program’s scope. It describes the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) and CBC programs as “.... a key factor in global competition ... facilitating better use of the potential for development and environmental protection”.

This document entirely aligns with the characteristics of the above cooperation programs.

1.3. EU Strategic Frameworks: Bulgarian Partnership Agreement

The Bulgarian Partnership Agreement emphasizes the central role of the cross-border cooperation programs in which Bulgaria participates in contributing to the EU Development Strategy. Cross-border cooperation programs should emphasize the importance of promoting employment, improving tourism, and promoting cultural



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

heritage while improving the link between communities in border areas. Improving the environmental system will also be encouraged.

1.4. EU Strategic Framework: Turkey’s Strategy Paper 2014-2020

The purpose of pre-accession assistance will be to promote territorial cooperation to strengthen cross-border, transnational cooperation, promote socio-economic development of border areas, and develop appropriate administrative capacity at the local and regional level through the participation of beneficiary countries in cross-border activities. : “One of the Turkey-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Program’s main goals is to address the lack of competitiveness of socio-economic development in the respective field compared to EU levels of development. Another goal is to face common challenges in the environment and nature conservation, as well as concerning transboundary emergencies. ”

1.5. Action plan: For nature, people, and the economy

In line with its commitment to better lawmaking, in 2014, the Commission undertook a comprehensive evaluation of the nature protection directives. This assessment, known as the “fitness check,” was completed in December 2016,

finding that the Member States have adopted different approaches to implementing the directives, which has sometimes led to unnecessary conflicts and problems. In particular, the lack of flexible application of species protection provisions, delays and unjustified administrative barriers in permitting procedures for protected areas, and insufficient information provided to stakeholders have created unnecessary tensions between nature conservation and social protection. economic activities.

The aim of the action plan is to provide practical solutions to these problems and to support smarter inclusive approaches that encourage the full participation of landowners and users.

The action plan has set out the following priorities:

- ❖ **Priority A:** Improving guidance, knowledge, and coherence with wider socio-economic objectives
- ❖ **Priority B:** Make a political commitment and ensure stricter compliance with the law



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

- ❖ **Priority C:** Optimizing Natura 2000 investments and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
- ❖ **Priority D:** Improving communication, providing information, and engaging citizens, stakeholders, and communities

This Plan has been developed in accordance with this Action Plan and the priorities and planned actions defined in it.

2. State policy of Bulgaria in the field of environment

2.1. Ministry of Environment and Water

The Ministry of Environment and Water develops and implements the state policy in the field of environment. For this aim, general and specialized administrations function within the Ministry's structure, incl. **Executive Environment Agency, 4 Basin Directorates, 16 Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water, 3 National Parks Directorates, Management of Environmental Protection Activities Enterprise, Managing Authority of the Operational Program Environment**, which administers the environmental funds in Bulgaria.

2.2. The National Development Program: Bulgaria 2020 is the leading strategic and program document, which specifies the country's development policies' goals until 2020. The formulated goals of the government policies aim to achieve accelerated economic growth and raise the living standards of Bulgarian citizens in the medium and long term. NDP BG2020 formulates three national strategic goals and eight priorities, towards which the policies in all sectors should be oriented. Priority 3 and Priority 4 have a direct bearing on preserving protected areas and natural resources in general.

- ♣ **Priority 3:** Achieving sustainable integrated regional development and use of local potential. Sub-priority 3.5: Creating conditions for protection and improvement of the environment in the regions, adaptation to the occurring climate changes, and sustainable and efficient use of natural resources.
- ♣ **Priority 4** “Development of agriculture for food security and production of high value-added products in sustainable management of natural resources.” Sub-priority 4.5 “Sustainable use and management of natural resources.”

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

2.3. National Concept for Spatial Development 2013 – 2025 is a strategic document that provides guidelines for the organization, management, and protection of the national territory and water area and creates prerequisites for spatial orientation and sectoral policies' coordination. Together with the National Strategy for Regional Development 2012-2022, it is a key document and a long-awaited tool for integrated planning and sustainable spatial, economic, and social development. The concept outlines six strategic goals with respective priorities for their achievement, some of which are related to the processes of protection and preservation of protected areas and natural resources, in general:

♣ **Strategic Goal 4 “Preserving Natural and Cultural Heritage”**

It aims to develop the national system of protected natural and cultural wealth, to maintain biological balance, spatial natural and cultural identity, and integrate their values into modern life.

2.4. The National Strategy for Development of the Forest Sector in the Republic of Bulgaria for 2013 – 2020 is the primary document that defines the state policy's strategic framework for achieving long-term and sustainable forest management. The strategy has three strategic goals:

- ♣ Ensuring sustainable development of the forest sector by achieving an optimal balance between the ecological function of forests and their ability to provide long-term material benefits and services;
- ♣ Strengthening the role of forests for ensuring economic growth of the country and more even (balanced) territorial socio-economic development;
- ♣ Increasing the contribution of the forestry sector to the green economy.

2.5. Energy strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2020

The main priorities in the energy strategy can be reduced to the following five areas: ensuring the security of energy supply; achieving the goals for renewable energy; increasing energy efficiency; development of a competitive energy market, and a policy aimed at meeting energy needs and protecting consumers' interests. Renewable energy sources as key local inexhaustible resources are identified as a priority of the national energy policy. For this purpose, the water potential and the other sources of clean energy (wind, sun, geothermal waters, etc.) are planned to be used. Also, the forest and



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

agricultural sectors' importance as sources of solid biomass and raw material for the production of biogas and liquid fuels are taken into consideration.

2.6. The National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation aims to protect, restore, and sustainably manage biodiversity in the country and limit the loss of biodiversity.

2.7. The third national action plan on climate change for the period 2013-2020. provides for specific measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors. These measures are in line with the country's policy related to climate change and, accordingly, with the national economy's potential to reduce emissions.

2.8. The Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2014-2020 has its primary goal - prevention and reduction of adverse effects on human health, socio-economic activity, environment, and cultural heritage in Bulgaria due to natural and human-made disasters. In this aim, **four priorities** are formulated:

- ♣ developing a sustainable national policy and providing a stable legal and institutional framework for disaster risk reduction;
- ♣ identifying, assessing, and monitoring disaster risks, expanding and maintaining effective national systems for disaster forecasting, monitoring, early warning, and notification;
- ♣ building a culture of disaster protection at all levels of government and in society through the use of experience, training, research, and innovation;
- ♣ reducing significant risk factors and increasing preparedness for effective disaster response at all levels of government.

2.9. The National Disaster Protection Program 2014-2019 is a key policy document in the field of prevention, management, and overcoming of the consequences of disasters and accidents and outlines the guidelines for the establishment of an effective, resource- and a technically secure national system for prevention and response to disasters.

2.10. The Strategy for Sustainable Development of Tourism in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2030 envisages Bulgaria to take a leading place among the five top destinations in Central and Eastern Europe. The document emphasizes the attractiveness of the regions and the opportunities they offer for the development of specialized types of tourism, namely: medical, spa and wellness, cultural (in all its forms - historical,



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

archaeological, ethnographic, and pilgrimage), eco- and rural tourism, adventure, congress, hunting, golf, wine, and gourmet tourism, etc.

2.11. Guidelines for the Integration of Environmental Policy (AMP) and Climate Change Policy (CAP) in the CP, CAP, and ODP Funds for the Period 2014-2020, developed by the Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria (approved by the Council of Ministers on 01.03.2013).

There are other strategic and planning documents related to natural resources protection policies and particularly for protected areas, such as the National Strategy for Management and Development of the Water Sector, the National Renewable Energy Action Plan, and the National Long-Term Program for promoting the use of biomass for the period 2008-2020, the National Strategy for Research Development 2020, the narrowly profiled Program of Measures for Adaptation of Forests in the Republic of Bulgaria and mitigation of the negative impact of climate change on them and others.



3. Turkish state policy in the field of environment

3.1. Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning conducts the state policy in the Republic of Turkey's environmental protection and preservation.

3.2. The EU Integrated Cohesion Strategy for the Environment 2007-2023 - The Strategy

For Turkey, the strategic environmental framework is based on **The EU Integrated Cohesion Strategy for the Environment 2007-2023 - The Strategy** in which Turkey aligns its legislation, institutional structures, and working practices with European environmental law requirements (Chapter 27 of the acquis). The framework also includes:

- ♣ **The Tenth Development Plan (2014-2018) of the Republic of Turkey** aims, inter alia, to create habitable places and a sustainable environment; Its main objectives



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

include the construction of disaster-resistant habitats and the expansion of environmentally friendly practices, and the sustainable use of natural resources.

4. Review of the EU legal and policy framework for both the environment and key elements of the environment

4.1. Air and climate

Applicable EU law and policies	Applicable law and policies of Bulgaria	Applicable law and policies of Turkey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ EU Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50 / EC) ♣ Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (COM (2005) 446) ♣ EU Climate Energy Package 2020 ♣ EU Directive on energy efficiency (2012/27 / EU) ♣ EU Renewable Energy Directive (SAI) (2009/28 / EC) ♣ EU Strategy for adaptation to climate change COM (2013) 216 ♣ EU White Paper on Transport (COM (2011) 144) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Climate Change Mitigation law ♣ Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2020 ♣ Energy Law ♣ National Action Plan for Renewable Energy 2020 ♣ Law on Renewable Energy ♣ Third National Action Plan on Climate Change 2013-2020 ♣ Atmospheric air purity law ♣ Strategy for development of the transport system of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2020 ♣ National Strategy for the development of the forest industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Atmospheric Air Quality Assessment and Management Act ♣ Climate Change Strategy for the period 2010-2020. ♣ ACTION PLAN for climate change for the period 2011-2023. ♣ National Strategy for adaptation to climate change and action plan



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

4.2. Biodiversity, fauna, and flora

Applicable EU law and policies	Applicable law and policies of Bulgaria	Applicable law and policies of Turkey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 ♣ EU Habitats Directive (92/43 / EEC) ♣ EU Birds Directive (2009/147 / EC) ♣ EU Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (COM (2005) 670) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Law on Environmental Protection ♣ Law on Protected Areas ♣ Law on Biological Diversity ♣ National priority framework for action on ♣ Natura 2000 Disaster Protection Act ♣ National Strategy for the development of the forest industry ♣ National Plan for the protection of wetlands - 2013-2020 ♣ Tourism Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ National Strategy for adaptation to climate change and action plan ♣ Regulation for the protection of wetlands ♣ Environmental Law

4.3. Water

Applicable EU law and policies	Applicable law and policies of Bulgaria	Applicable law and policies of Turkey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60 / EC) ♣ EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118 / EC) ♣ EU Floods Directive (2007/60 / EC) ♣ EU Urban Waste Water Directive (91/271 / EEC) ♣ EU Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Law on Environmental Protection ♣ Water Act ♣ National Strategy for management and development of the water sector ♣ Strategy for management and development of water supply and sewerage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ National Strategy for adaptation to climate change and action plan ♣ Ordinance for surface water quality management ♣ Environmental Law



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

<p>Natural Resources (COM (2005) 670)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ EU Nitrates Directive (91/676 / EEC) ♣ EU Landfill Directive (99/31 / EC) ♣ EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98 / EC) ♣ EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/75 / EC): ♣ EU Thematic Strategy for Growth and Jobs in the Coastal and Maritime Tourism Sector ; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ National Plan for the protection of wetlands - 2013-2020 ♣ Tourism Law ♣ East Basin River Basin Management Plan (2010-2015) ♣ River Basin Management Plan in the Black Sea region (2010-2015) ♣ Strategic Action Plan for Environmental Protection in Marine Waters in the Black Sea River Basin Management Plans for the period 2016-2021 ♣ Flood risk management plans (RMPs) ♣ National Plan for the protection of wetlands - 2013-2020 ♣ Tourism Law 	
--	---	--

4.4. Soils

Applicable EU law and policies	Applicable law and policies of Bulgaria	Applicable law and policies of Turkey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection COM (2006) 231 ♣ EU Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (COM (2005) 670) ♣ EU Landfill Directive (99/31 / EC) ♣ EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98 / EC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Law on Environmental Protection ♣ Soil Management Law ♣ Disaster Protection Act ♣ Tourism Law ♣ National waste management plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ National Strategy for adaptation to climate change and action plan ♣ Ordinance on land pollution from organized sources and control of soil pollution



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

	♣ National plan for reduction of biodegradable waste destined for landfill	♣ Environmental Law
--	--	---------------------

4.5. Population and human health

Applicable EU law and policies	Applicable law and policies of Bulgaria	Applicable law and policies of Turkey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ EU Health Strategy “Together for Health” ♣ Third EU action program in the field of health (2014-2020) ♣ EU Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49 / EC) ♣ EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98 / EC) ♣ EU Landfill Directive (99/31 / EC) ♣ EU Floods Directive (2007/60 / EC) ♣ EU directive on urban waste water treatment (91/271 / EEC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Law on Environmental Protection ♣ Disaster Protection Act ♣ Law on Waste Management ♣ National waste management plan ♣ National plan for reduction of biodegradable waste destined for landfill ♣ Water Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ National strategy for adaptation to climate change and action plan ♣ Environmental Law ♣ Regulation on the assessment and management of environmental noise ♣ Regulation on waste storage ♣ Solid Waste Control Act ♣ Regulations for control over packaging waste

4.6. Cultural/natural heritage and landscape

Applicable EU law and policies	Applicable law and policies of Bulgaria	Applicable law and policies of Turkey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ 2000 EU Landscape Convention ♣ Communication on Tourism 2010 ♣ EU Floods Directive (2007/60 / EC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Law on Environmental Protection ♣ Law on Biological Diversity ♣ Water Act ♣ Law on Protected Areas ♣ Strategic Plan for the development of cultural tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Turkey's 2023 Tourism Strategy ♣ Law for protection of damaged immovable historical and cultural values through renewal and reuse



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

	♣ Law on Tourism	♣ Legislation for the protection of cultural and natural heritage
--	------------------	---

4.7. Review of the EU legal and policy framework for both countries related to biodiversity, fauna, and flora, in the context of this Plan

The EU Biodiversity Strategy, “Our Life Insurance, Our Natural Capital: An EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020”, was adopted in 2012. It **combats the loss of biodiversity and proposes the introduction of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020**. It provides for six primary outcomes and 20 actions to help Europe achieve its goal. These are:



- ♣ Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity;
- ♣ Better protection of ecosystems and broader use of “green” infrastructure;
- ♣ More sustainable agriculture and forestry;
- ♣ Better management of fish stocks;
- ♣ Tighter control over invasive alien species
- ♣ Greater EU contribution to preventing the loss of biodiversity worldwide.

The protection of endangered species falls under another goal. In this context, it is appropriate to mention the Global Program for Species of IUCN, which draws up the “red list of endangered species” to assess their conservation status and the extent to which they are threatened with extinction.

Biodiversity conservation and the protection of wild birds and natural habitats are at the heart of two EU directives: habitats and birds. The Habitats Directive establishes the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, promoting the long-term conservation of endangered species and habitats.

4.7.1. Bulgaria

The National Framework for Priority Action under Natura 2000 sets specific strategic priorities for 2014-2020, which should be implemented in the territories protected under Natura 2000. These strategic priorities are the following:

- 1) Planning the management of Natura 2000 protected areas
- 2) Sustainable management of Natura 2000 protected areas



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

- 3) Sustainable use of ecosystem services for optimal public benefit and other factors for socio-economic development of the regions
- 4) Design, development, and maintenance of a common vision on the ecological network Natura 2000 in Bulgaria
- 5) Technical assistance.

The purpose of **the Protected Areas Act** is to conserve and preserve protected areas as national and universal wealth and assets and as a special form of protection of Bulgarian nature, contributing to culture and science, and society's welfare.

The Biodiversity Act has the following objectives:

- ♣ protection of representative for Bulgaria and Europe types of natural habitats and habitats of endangered, rare and endemic plant and animal species within the National Ecological Network;
- ♣ protection of Bulgarian flora and fauna, as well as species that are subject to use and trade;
- ♣ conservation of endemic genetic resources and diversity of plant and animal species outside their natural environment;
- ♣ regulation of the introduction of non-native and re-introduction of native plant and animal species in nature;
- ♣ regulation of trade in specimens of endangered species of wild flora and fauna ;
- ♣ protection of relict and unique trees.

The idea of the **National Strategy for Development of the Forestry Sector** is: by 2020, Bulgaria should have productive and multifunctional forests, sustainable, competitive, and innovative forestry sector and biodiversity, and preserved quantitative and qualitative water resources in forest areas. The sector will contribute to the country's economic development, limiting the effects of climate change and maintaining a healthy environment.

4.7.2. Turkey

“Regulation on the protection of wetlands” aims at defining the principles and rules for protecting wetlands and their habitats, their efficient use, and management.

The purpose of **the Environmental Act** is :

- ♣ protection and improvement of the environment, which all citizens share
- ♣ better use and protection of land and natural resources in rural and urban areas
- ♣ prevention of water, land, and air pollution



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

- ♣ through conservation of plant and animal species, and the country's natural and historical wealth, to implement all structural and protective measures to improve and ensure the health, well-being, and high-quality living conditions of current and future generations, according to the economic and social development and based on specific legal and technical principles.

5. NATURA 2000

5.1. General information. Nature and meaning

The loss of biodiversity is the most significant environmental challenge our planet is facing. Biodiversity conservation does not only mean protecting species and natural habitats for their own sake. It is also about maintaining nature's ability to deliver the goods and services we all need and whose loss would be irretrievable.



NATURA 2000 is a European network made up of protected areas designed to provide long-term survival of the most valuable and threatened species and habitats for Europe in accordance with basic international agreements in the field of environmental protection and biodiversity.

The sites in the ecological network are determined by two main environmental **directives of the European Union - Directive 92/43 / EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora** (hereinafter referred to as the **Habitats Directive**) and **Directive 2009/147 / EU on the protection of wild birds** (hereinafter referred to as the **Birds Directive**). Natura 2000 protected areas are selected to ensure **species' and habitats' long-term survival** protected by the **Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive**.

Member States are obliged to establish the distribution of these habitats and species in their territories, place part of them under protection, and manage them for conservation and sustainable use. The result must be a **functionally unified network** of key areas for the preservation of species and habitats. NATURA 2000 consists of two types of zones:

- specially protected areas (SPAs) - for birds
- areas under special protection (ASP) - for habitats and species

This protection is achieved in two ways - through active management, i.e., by maintaining, restoring, and creating human activities in protected areas that are directly related to the protection of these species and habitats or that would not harm them, and by limiting activities, dangerous to these habitats and species.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

- ♣ Pollution and destruction of habitats are not allowed.
- ♣ Activities or projects that lead to habitat deterioration and species damage are banned. In addition to certain industrial and infrastructural activities, these are also the nature-unfriendly activities of intensive agriculture and forestry.
- ♣ Significant disturbance of birds and other animals is not allowed.
- ♣ The use of the resources from the activities is carried out only according to the management plans. They are designed to protect species and habitats, as well as the wise use of resources.
- ♣ In the surrounding areas, activities shall also comply with management plans to not lead to habitat deterioration or species damage in protected areas.

NATURA 2000, however, is not a system of "forbidden zones". Although the network does include some nature reserves with a strict regime and limited human activity, European citizens live and work in most of the protected areas, develop agriculture, practice hunting and fishing. NATURA 2000 supports the principle of sustainable development. Its aim is not to stop all economic activities but to determine the parameters in which they could take place without hindering the protection of European nature. In addition to preserving our valuable natural assets, NATURA 2000 provides many benefits to society and the economy at the local, regional, national and European level - from the absorption and storage of carbon dioxide and climate change mitigation to maintaining water quality and quantity, conserving of pollination, the preservation of the landscape, the removal of pollutants from the surrounding nature, the support of tourism and recreation.

Therefore, investing in NATURA 2000 is fully justified and directly linked to the Europe 2020 growth and employability. The network thus can become a driver for the prosperity of the local and regional economies.

This is especially true for countries like Bulgaria, which have exceptional biodiversity and, therefore, the NATURA 2000 network covers about 35% of their territory. The biodiversity is a treasure of national heritage and a real economic advantage that should be preserved, valued, and promoted to benefit Bulgarian citizens.

5.2. Natura 2000 in Bulgaria

The two European directives are reflected in the Bulgarian legislation through **the Biodiversity Act (BDA)**, and the selection of protected areas is based on scientific criteria. The process of creating the ecological network NATURA 2000 in Bulgaria began in 2002 with the adoption of the Biodiversity Act, which introduces the norms of the two European directives.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

III. ANALYSIS OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE REGION. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

1. Geographical characteristics of the cross-border region

1.1. General information

The cooperation area's geographical structure varies from 710 m to 1000 m altitude, including plains, low valleys, plateaus, and the hilly regions with mountainous features. In the northeastern part, the cooperation zone's borders are to Stara Planina in Bulgaria, Strandzha Mountain in the Southeastern region, and the Black Sea coast, which falls within the boundaries of Bulgaria and Turkey.

The eligible region under the Interreg Program - IPA Bulgaria - Turkey 2014-2020 covers Burgas, Yambol, and Haskovo's districts for the Republic of Bulgaria and the provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli on the territory of the Republic of Turkey.

1.2. General review of the target trans-boundary region in the context of Plan

In this Plan, the cross-border target region includes **Yambol District** from the Bulgarian part and **Kirklareli District** from the Turkish part.

1.2.1. Yambol District

Yambol District is one of the 28 districts of Bulgaria, part of the Southeast region of level 2 according to the regional classification for Bulgaria. The district borders on the west with Haskovo district and Stara Zagora district, on the south with the Republic of Turkey, on the east with Burgas district, and on the north with Sliven district. One of the largest rivers in the country - Tundzha - passes through the territory of the region. The Middle Tundzha valley occupies the central part of the territory of the Yambol district.

The southern border of the district is part of the common boundary between Bulgaria and Turkey. The area of the region is 3 355 sq. Km, 77% of which are agricultural lands, and 81% of them are arable. The forest territories occupy 15.9% of the district's area, as they are the most in the municipalities of Bolyarovo - 27.6% and Elhovo - 19.6%.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Administratively and territorially, the district consists of **five municipalities - Yambol, Elhovo, Tundzha, Straldzha and Bolyarovo**. The total number of settlements in the district is 109, of which four are cities - Yambol, Elhovo, Bolyarovo and Straldzha, and the rest are villages :

Bolyarovo Municipality (Bolyarovo, Voden, Valchi Izvor, Golyamo Krushevo, Gorska Polyana, Dennitsa, Dabovo, Zlatinitsa, Iglika, Kamen Vrah, Krainovo, Malko Sharkovo, Mamarchevo, Oman, Popovo, Ruzhitsa, Sitovo, Stefan Karadjovo, Strandzha, Sharkovo); **Municipality of Elhovo** (Borisovo, Boyanovo, Valcha Polyana, Golyam Dervent, Granitovo, Dobrich, Elhovo, Zhrebino, Izgrev, Kirilovo, Lalkovo, Lesovo, Malko Kirilovo, Malomirovo, Malak Manastir, Melnitsa, Pchela, Stronkovo, Slaveykovo); **Municipality of Straldzha** (Atolovo, Alexandrovo, Bogorovo, Vodenichane, Voynika, Djino, Zimnitsa, Irechekovo, Kamenets, Leyarovo, Lozenets, Lyulin, Malenovo, Nedyalsko, Palauzovo, Polyana, Pravdino, Parvenets, Saransko, Straldzha, Tamarino, Charda); **Tundzha Municipality** (Asenovo, Bezmer, Bolyarsko, Botevo, Boyadzhik, Veselinovo, Vidintsi, General Toshevo, Golyam Manastir, Galabintsi, Drazhevo, Drama, Dryanovo, Zavoy, Zlatari, General Inzovo, Kabile, Kalchevo, Karavelovo, Kozarevo Kukorevo, Malomir, Meden Kladenets, Mezhd, Miladinovtsi, Mogila, Ovchi Kladenets, Okop, Pobeda, Robovo, Roza, Savino, Simeonovo, Skalitsa, Slamino, Stara Reka, Tenevo, Tarnava, Hadjidimitrovo, Hanovo, Chargan, Chelnik); **Municipality of Yambol** (Yambol) .



Of all the municipalities, the municipality of Tundzha is with the largest territory - 1218.9 sq. km. The smallest is the municipality of Yambol, only 90.1 sq. km., which covers only the town of Yambol.

1.2.2. Kirkclareli Region

Kirkclareli Province (Turkish: Kirkclareli) is a province in northwestern Turkey, on the west coast of the Black Sea. It is neighboring Bulgaria to the north along 180 km border. It borders Edirne Province to the west, Tekirdag Province to the south, and Istanbul Province to the southeast. **Kirkclareli is the capital of the province.**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

The province is divided by the Strandzha mountain range. The northern and northeastern parts of the region are among the least populated and underdeveloped parts of Turkey. The south and west areas are more densely populated because the land is more suitable for agriculture and industrial development. Forests dominate the northern and eastern parts of the province. Therefore, forestry is an essential sector for those living in these areas. Fishing takes place along the Black Sea coast. The province of Kirkclareli is divided into **eight municipalities: Babaeski; Demirkoy; Kirkclareli; Kofçaz; Lüleburgaz; Pehlivankoy ; Pinarhisar; Vize** .



2. Scope and description of shared natural resources

2.1. Strandzha Mountain

Strandzha is a mountain in southeastern Bulgaria (Burgas and Yambol regions) and European Turkey. It is close to the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Strandzha is located in the eastern part of the historical-geographical region of Thrace. It extends to the north to the Burgas lowland, to the northeast and east to the Black Sea, to the southwest to the East Thracian plain. It connects with the Bakadzhitsite (near the village of Stefan Karadjovo) and the Derventa hills (in the vicinity of the village of Strandzha). To the northwest, its length from northwest to southeast is about 125 km and its width reaches 65 km. The mountain's total area is about 10,000 km², of which about 35% on Bulgarian territory and 65% on Turkish territory.

Strandzha is a low mountain. Its relief is characterized by scattered hills bounded by deep river valleys. On the territory of Bulgaria, there are two main ridges, oriented generally in the west-east direction: Southern Border with the highest point on Bulgarian territory Gradishte peak (709.6 m) and northern Bosnia (Papija peak, 502 m), from which to the north there are low and hilly ridges - Karatepe, Rosen Bair, Medni rid and Kitka (Uzundjabai). Between the two ridges, along the Veleka River valley, is the historical-geographical





Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

area of Hasekiyata. On the Turkish border, South of the village of Belevren, rises Arabadji Bair peak (709.6 m; 42.0604 N; 27.1935 E). To the south of Turkish territory is the main (principal) ridge of the mountain oriented from northwest to southeast. Here the highest peak of the mountain - Golyama Mahiada or Mahiada (Mahya Dağ, Mahya dag) is situated (1031 m high) as a part of Karamustafa Bair. In the southeast, its height gradually decreases and ends with Karatepe Peak (484 m). A section of the Balkan Peninsula's main watershed between the catchment areas of the Black and Aegean Seas runs along the entire mountain ridge from northwest to southeast.

The landscape of Strandzha is beautiful. A sea of green, hilly forests, crossed by naturally meandering rivers. The longest of them, the Veleka River, flows into the Black Sea through a wonderfully beautiful estuary. Strandzha has stretched karst terrain, with steep limestone rocks, many mineral springs, and complex cave systems. The predominant soils in the area are cinnamon forest soils and yellowish podzolic soils along the middle valley of the Veleka River.

Strandzha Mountain is a place full of extraordinary natural and historical treasures. **Living Museum - a bridge between two continents: Europe and Asia.**

Flora and fauna make the area unique in Europe. The specific nature is a result of the geological past, climate, and geographical location.



Figure 1. Strandzha Zelenika

In Strandzha, there are unique plant species such as Strandzha zelenika (Strandzha periwinkle).

The forests are of South Euxinian type, formed by eastern sessile oak, eastern beech, and hornbeam with undergrowth of laurel bushes (Strandzha periwinkle and others) sub-euxinian forests of hornbeam, cerris, and eastern sessile oak.

The flora of the mountain consists of **1665 species**, with dozens of relict and endemic plants. The plants that grow in Strandzha are **pine, spruce, fir, and others**. The plant communities were formed before Europe and Asia's separation and Bosphorus formation, which now connects the Black and Mediterranean Seas. Continental ice has never reached the mountain during the ice ages. It is the lack of icing that has created a unique window to the past. The plants, which were once widespread on the European continent during the Tertiary era, are now preserved only in Strandzha. **That is why the mountain is a living museum.** The mountain is a natural paradise for wild animals. The steep and rocky slopes and deep gorges and ravines are home to unique birds and



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

mammals such as: **wild cat, golden jackal, otter, black stork, bald eagle, owl and meadow woodpecker.**

The fauna of Strandzha contains **99 endemic species** of invertebrates, while its vertebrate fauna is the richest in the Bulgarian protected area - **263 species**. Strandzha's fauna is characterized by a high percentage of Mediterranean, sub-Mediterranean, and Asia Minor species. They are widespread in the low and medium-high parts of the mountain. The high parts are characterized mainly by Euro-Siberian species.

Mammals - There are 82 species of mammals in the mountains. Large game predominates **roe deer, red deer wolf, wild boar, jackal, fox, badger, squirrel, and others. The otter population in Veleka is the best preserved in Europe.** Six species are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria, and one species - the **monk seal** - in the World Red Book. It is very likely that the mammals in Strandzha will exceed 82 species because the caves are only partially studied.



Figure 2. Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

Large mammals that can be found here are the **jackal, wolf, wild boar, deer, wild cat, rabbit, and from the tiny animals - gray hamster (*Cricetus migratorius*, degree type).** **Wolf (*Canis lupus*)** - The wolf inhabits the entire mountain, but its **population is tiny**. Today, it is an endangered species because humans have systematically destroyed it to protect pets from its attacks.

Birds nest in the park, but many more can be seen. The migratory route of birds Via Pontica attracts many species in this unique area, adding to the bird species' total number. During migration, vast **groups of storks, pelicans, and eagles** fly over the park and along the coast.

Strandzha is the least populated area in Bulgaria - only ten people per square kilometer. On Bulgarian territory in the mountains and on the Black Sea coast, there are four towns: Malko Tarnovo, Tsarevo, Primorsko and Ahtopol, and several dozen mostly small villages, and on Turkish territory, there are five towns: Malak Samokov (Demirkoy), Kofchaz, Lozengrad (Kirklareli), Bunarhisar (Panarhisar) and Visa (Vise), and many villages.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Strandzha Nature Park is located on the mountain's territory (declared a park in 1995 with 116 13 6.2 hectares, it is the largest protected area in Bulgaria). The nature park is located on Strandzha Mountain's territory, which occupies regions from Bulgaria and Turkey, bordering the Republic of Turkey to the south and the Black Sea to the east. The whole municipality of Malko Tarnovo, part of the municipality of Tsarevo, and a small part of the Primorsko municipality are located on its territory. It includes 21 settlements with a population of about 8,000 people. There are five nature reserves, 14 protected areas, and eight natural landmarks on the park's territory.

2.2. Derventa hills

Derventa hills (until June 29, 1942, Derventa heights, until January 5, 1946 Ravnogorie (Flat mountain)) are hills in Southeastern Bulgaria (about 40%), Yambol region, and European Turkey (about 60%).

They stretch from west to east for about 50 km, and their total width on Bulgarian and Turkish territory is approximately 45 - 50 km. They are located between the Srem gorge of the Tundzha River to the west and the valleys of the Popovska (left tributary of the Tundzha) and Chengerlidere (right tributary of the Ergene in Turkey) to the east, which separate them from the Strandzha mountain, in the vicinity of the Bulgarian village of Strandzha. Their inter-valley hills extend respectively to the Elhovo field and the Edirne lowland in Turkey to the north and south. Along the river's central ridge, between the border pyramids with №№ from 173 to 279, passes a section of Turkey's Republic's border. The ridge of the hills is flat and slightly sloping with an altitude of 300 - 450 m, above which rise rounded peaks, the highest of Gürgenbair (555.2 m) on the Bulgarian territory, about 2 km southwest of the village of Krainovo. They are built mainly of limestone and granite. There are over 30 large karst caves, the largest of which are: “Kerechnitsa” with a length of 225 m and the water abyss “Dranchi Dupka” with a depth of 25 m near the village of Melnitsa.





Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

There are non-industrial deposits of copper and iron ores. The climate is transitional Mediterranean. The rivers Popovska, Arapliyska (with their tributary Boyalshka river), and Pravavidere (left arms of Tundzha) originate from them; Sazladere (left arm of Maritsa); Tatardere, Havsadere, and Chengerlidere (right tributaries of Ergene). Much of their ridge and slopes are overgrown with deciduous forests and vast pastures.

On Bulgarian territory in the northern ridges of the Derventa hills are located 20 villages: Voden, Valcha Polyana, Golyam Dervent, Granitovo, Zlatinitsa, Iglika, Krainovo, Lalkovo, Lesovo, Malko Kirilovo, Malko Sharkovo, Malomirovo, Mamarchevo, Melnitsa, Razdel Slaveykovo, Srem, Chernozem and Sharkovo.

On Turkish territory in the hills' southern ridges are located the town of Lalapasha and 20 villages: Buyukkonlu, Vaisal, Devletliagach, Demirkoy, Dombey, Donloy, Kalkansyogut, Karaamza, Omeroba, Saksagan, Tatarlar, Tashlunalyse, Chatmakoy, Chomlekkoy, and Yuntash.

Sections of 2 roads from the State Road Network pass through the hills on Bulgarian territory: In their western part, from north to south, along 20.3 km - the last section of a first-class road № 7 Silistra - Shumen - Yambol - Lesovo border checkpoint; In their hilly northern part, from west to east, from the village of Dobrich to the town of Bolyarovo, along 13.6 km - a section of a second-class road № 79 Elhovo - Sredets - Bourgas.

The region is a habitat for about **120 species of birds**, 25 of which **are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria**.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

2.3. Longoz forests in Strandzha



The forest is part of the "Green Belt" on the Bulgarian-Turkish border - an area with almost untouched nature preserved thanks to strict border control during the Cold War. The Longoz forests have a unique character, which derives from the composition and structure of the forest vegetation and the specific conditions under which it grows.

The word "**longoz**" comes from two languages. In Greek, "**longoz**" means forest, and in Slavic, "**longa**" is a small grove in a wet area. The particular mixture of temperate continental climate and tropical appearance is unique to the Balkan Peninsula's eastern parts and globally.

Longoz forests are rare because of their rich flora, fauna, biodiversity, exceptional beauty, climate, geology, various

ecological values, and waters. They are also home to wildlife and endemic European species.

The characteristic features of this type of ecosystem make them extremely valuable. The longoz forests in Bulgaria are located in the reserves "Kamchia", "Ropotamo", "Batova", and "Baltata", as well as in protected areas along the rivers Tundzha, Maritsa, and Struma. Their uniqueness, limited distribution, and preservation make them a very significant green treasury of Bulgaria.

The forest, which is located in the Turkish part - near the **Turkish town of Ineada**, looks like a hidden paradise with its centuries-old and impressive trees and lakes, which are constantly fighting for territory with the sea, as well as hundreds of species of waterfowl which have chosen this place as a resting point for their kilometers-long annual migration trips.



3. Specifics of protected natural areas in the cross-border region

3.1. Protected natural territories and zones on the part of the Yambol district

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu**3.1.1. Difference between “protected territories” and “protected areas.”**

There is an essential difference between the two categories that should be taken into account. The Protected Areas Act regulates the establishment of protected areas. The state designs and ensures the functioning and maintenance of protected areas as part of the regional and global network following the international environmental treaties in which Bulgaria participates. The law aims to conserve and preserve protected areas as national and universal wealth and property and as a special form of protection of native nature, contributing to the development of culture and science, and society’s well-being. Protected areas are designed to enhance the ecosystems’ biological diversity and the natural processes occurring in them and remarkable objects of inanimate nature and landscapes. Protected areas include forests, land, and waters.

The categories of protected territories are 1. reserve; 2. national park; 3. natural landmark; 4. maintained reserve; 5. nature park; 6. protected area. Each of these categories has different regimes described in the law.

“ Protected areas ” is a term introduced by the Biodiversity Act, according to which the State establishes a National Ecological Network, which includes: 1. protected areas, as part of the European ecological network “NATURA 2000”, in which protected areas may participate; 2. protected territories, which do not fall into the protected zones.

The National Ecological Network aims at

1. the long-term protection of the biological, geological, and landscape diversity;
2. the provision of sufficient and quality places for breeding, feeding, and resting, including in case of migration, hibernating, and wintering of the wild animals;
3. the creation of conditions for genetic exchange between divided populations and species;
4. the participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the European and world ecological networks;
5. limitation of the negative anthropogenic impact on protected territories

3.1.2. Protected areas and territories in Yambol District**3.1.2.1. Protected areas****BG0002026 Derventa hills**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Category: PA under the Birds Directive (Documents for the announcement: Order No. RD-284 of 16.03.2010, issue 29/2010 of the State Gazette 2-1-2026-284-2010)

Area: **34863.56 hectares**

Location:

- **Yambol District : Bolyarovo Municipality (Voden village, Iglia village, Krainovo village, Malko Sharkovo village, Mamarchevo village, Sitovo village, Sharkovo village) ; Elhovo Municipality (village of Valcha Polyana, village of Golyam Dervent, village of Lalkovo, village of Lesovo, village of Malko Kirilovo, village of Melnitsa, village of Razdel, village of Slaveykovo, village of Chernozem)**

It falls on the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

The subject of protection (species and habitats):

1. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 3 of the BDA: Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Short-toed Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Western Marsh Harrier



Figure 3. Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

(*Circus aeruginosus*), Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*), Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*), Levant sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*), Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*), European nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), European roller (*Coracias garrulus*), Middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*), Syrian woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*), Greater short-toed lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), Tawny pipit (*Anthus campestris*), Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Lesser grey shrike (*Lanius minor*), Masked shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Barred warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), Olive-tree warbler (*Hippolais olivetorum*), Ortolan bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*);

2. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 4 of the BDA: Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*).



Conservation targets:

1. *Preservation and maintenance of the habitats of the indicated species of birds to achieve their favorable conservation status;*



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

2. Restoration of habitats of bird species for which it is necessary to improve their conservation status.



Scheme activities:

1. It is prohibited to remove landscape features (borders, single and groups of trees, protective forest belts) when using agricultural land as such;
2. The afforestation of meadows, pastures, and fields, as well as their conversion into arable lands and permanent crops, is prohibited;
3. The use of pesticides and mineral fertilizers in pastures and meadows is prohibited;
4. It is prohibited to build new photovoltaic facilities and wind generators for electricity generation, except for those for which, as of the date of promulgation of the order in the State Gazette, a procedure has been initiated or agreed under Chapter Six of the Law on Protection of Electricity, environment and/or art. 31 of the Biological Diversity Act.
5. The use of non-selective pesticides in agriculture shall be prohibited; It is forbidden to mow the meadows from the periphery to the center with fast-moving equipment before July 15.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

BG0002066 West Strandzha

Category: PA under the Birds Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Order No. RD-533 of 26.05.2010, No. 52/2010 of the State Gazette 2-1-2066-533-2010; Documents for change: Change in the regime of the activities with Order No. RD-83 of 28.01.2013, issue 10/2013 of the State Gazette*)

Area: **53821.15 hectares**

Location:

- Burgas District , Municipality: Sredets (village of Belevren, village of Varovnik, village of Golyamo Bukovo, village of Gorno Yabalkovo, village of Granitets, village of Dolno Yabalkovo, village of Kirovo, village of Momina tsarkva, village of Slivovo, village of Fakiya)
- **Yambol District, Municipality: Bolyarovo (town of Bolyarovo, village of Voden, village of Valchi Izvor, village of Golyamo Krushevo, village of Gorska Polyana, village of Dennitsa, village of Dabovo, village of Oman, village of Ruzhitsa, village of Stefan Karadjovo, Strandzha village)**

Within the territory of **RIEW Burgas and RIEW Stara Zagora**

The subject of protection (species and habitats):

1. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 3 of the

BDA : Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) , Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Short-toed eagle (*Circus gallicus*), *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus m acrourus*, Western marsh harrier (*Circus pygargus*), Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*), Levant sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*),



Figure 4. Pink pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*)

Long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*), Corncrake (*Crex crex*), Eurasian stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*), Eurasian eagle-ow (*Bubo bubo*), European nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), European roller (*Coracias garrulous*), Black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*), Middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*), Syrian woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*), Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*), Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*), Wood lark (*Lullula arborea*), Tawny pipit (*Anthus campestris*), Red-backed shrike (*Lanius*



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

collurio), Lesser grey shrike (*Lanius minor*), Masked shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Barred warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), Olive-tree warbler (*Hippolais olivetorum*), Ortolan (*Emberiza hortulana*);

;

2. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 4 of the BDA: Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), Common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Little-ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*), Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*), European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*).



Conservation targets:

1. *Preservation and maintenance of the habitats of the indicated species of birds to achieve their favorable conservation status;*
2. *Restoration of habitats of bird species for which it is necessary to improve their conservation status.*



Scheme activities:

1. *The afforestation of pastures and measures, as well as their conversion into arable lands and permanent crops, shall be prohibited;*
2. *The use of pesticides and mineral fertilizers in pastures is prohibited;*
3. *The construction of unsafe for birds aerial power transmission networks is prohibited.*
4. *The use of non-selective pesticides in agriculture is prohibited;*
5. *It is forbidden to mow the meadows from the periphery to the center with fast-moving equipment before July 15.*

BG0000219 Derventa hills 1

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (Declaration documents: Decision No.802 of 04.12.2007, No. 107/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-218-802-2007)

Area: **38696.5 hectares**

Location:

- District: Haskovo, Municipality: Topolovgrad, the village of Srem
- **Yambol District: Municipality: Bolyarovo (village of Voden, village of Iglia, village of Kraynovo, village of Malko Sharkovo, village of Mamarchevo, village of Sitovo, village of Sharkovo); Elhovo municipality (village of Valcha Polyana, village of Golyam Dervent, village of Granitovo, village of Lalkovo, village of**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Lesovo, village of Malko Kirilovo, village of Melnitsa, village of Razdel, village of Slaveykovo, village of Chernozem)

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

BG0000219 Derventa hills 2

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Decision No. 122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-219-122-2007*)

Area: **54990.48 hectares**

Location:

- Burgas District, Municipality: Sredets (village of Belevren, village of Varovnik, village of Golyamo Bukovo, village of Gorno Yabalkovo, village of Granichar, village of Dolno Yabalkovo, village of Kirovo, village of Momina tsarkva, village of Slivovo, village of Fakiya)
- **District Yambol, Municipality Bolyarovo (town of Bolyarovo, village of Voden, village of Valchi Izvor, village of Golyamo Krushevo, village of Gorska Polyana, village of Kraynovo, village of Ruzhitsa, village of Strandzha)**

It falls on the territory of **RIEW Burgas and RIEW Stara Zagora**

BG0002094 Adata - Tundzha

Category: PA under the Birds Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Order No. RD-556 of 05.09.2008, issue 84/2008 of the State Gazette 2-1-2094-556-2008; Documents for change: Change in the regime of activities with Order No. RD -85 of 28.01.2013, issue 10/2013 of the State Gazette*)

Area: **5636.61 hectares**

Location:

- Sliven District, Sliven Municipality (town of Sliven, village of Gergevets, village of Glufishevo, village of Zhelyu Voyvoda, village of Kamen, the village of Krushare, the village of Mechkarevo, the village of Panaretovtsi, the village of Samuilovo)
- **Yambol District, Tundzha Municipality (Drazhevo village, Zavoy village, Kabile village, Hadjidimitrovo village)**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

The subject of protection (species and habitats):



Figure 5. Grey-headed woodpecker (*Picus canus*)

1. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 3 of the BDA:

Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Great bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), Great egret (*Egretta alba*), Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Smee (*Mergus albellus*), Levant

sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*), Long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Black kite (*Milvus migrans*), Western marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Pallid harrier (*Circus macrourus*), Montagu’s harrier (*Circus pygargus*), Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Booted eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*), Western osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), Wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), European nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), European roller (*Coracias garrulus*), Grey-headed woodpecker (*Picus canus*), Black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*), Middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*), Syrian woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*), Olive-tree warbler (*Hippolais olivetorum*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), Tawny pipit (*Anthus campestris*), Barred warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Lesser grey shrike (*Lanius minor*);

2. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 4 of the BDA: Little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), Common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), Common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Coot (*Fulica atra*), Little-ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*), Northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Jack snipe (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*), Gallinago (*Gallinago gallinago*), Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*), Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*).



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Conservation targets:

1. Preservation and maintenance of the habitats of the birds indicated in species to achieve their favorable conservation status;
2. Restoration of habitats of bird species for which it is necessary to improve their conservation status.



Scheme activities:

1. It is prohibited to remove landscape features (borders, single and groups of trees) when using agricultural land as such;
2. It is prohibited to afforest meadows, pastures, as well as their conversion into arable land and permanent crops;
3. The use of pesticides and mineral fertilizers in pastures and meadows is prohibited;
4. The extraction of aggregates from the Tundzha River is prohibited;
5. It is prohibited to replace the riparian forests of local tree species with non-native ones at a distance of up to 50 m from the boundaries of the water bodies;
6. It is prohibited to dispose of waste;
7. It is prohibited to correct the riverbeds outside the settlements and the drainage of swamps and other wetlands.
8. The use of non-selective pesticides in agriculture is prohibited;
9. It is forbidden to mow the meadows from the periphery to the center with fast-moving equipment before July 15.

BG0000402 Bakadzhitsite

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-402-122-2007)

Area: **4501.34 hectares**

Location:

- **Yambol District: Municipality of Straldzha (village of Voynika, village of Irechekovo, village of Lyulin, village of Tamarino); Tundzha Municipality (Kalchevo village, Pobeda village, Tarnava village, Chargan village, Chelnik village)**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

BG0000513 Voinishki Bakadjik

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-513-122-2007*)

Area: **1138.94 hectares**

Location:

- Bourgas District, Municipality: Sredets, Zornitsa village
- **Yambol District, Municipality: Straldzha (village of Alexandrovo, village of Voynika, village of Polyana)**

Falls within the territory of **RIEW - Burgas and RIEW - Stara Zagora**

BG0000420 Grebenets

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-420-122-2007*)

Area: **9884.53 hectares**

Location:

- Sliven District: Kotel Municipality, Mokren village, the village of Sedlarevo); Municipality of Sliven (village of Blatets, village of Glushnik, village of Gorno Alexandrovo, village of Dragodanovo, village of Kaloyanovo, village of Sotirya, village of Topolchane, village of Trapoklovo)
- **District of Yambol, Municipality: Straldzha (town of Straldzha, village of Zimnitsa)**

Within the territory of **RIEW Burgas and RIEW Stara Zagora**

BG0000217 The gorge of the river Tundzha

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-217-122-2007*)

Area: **7850.43 hectares**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Location:

- Haskovo District: Svilengrad Municipality, Matochina village; Topolovgrad Municipality (Prisadets village, Radovets village, Srem village, Ustrem village, Filipovo village)
- **Yambol district, Elhovo municipality, Lesovo village**

Within the territory of **RIEW Haskovo and RIEW Stara Zagora**

BG0002028 Straldzha Complex

Category: PA under the Birds Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Order No. RD-550 of 05.09.2008, issue 84/2008 of the State Gazette 2-1-2028-550-2008*)

Area: **2872.98 hectares**

Location:

- Bourgas District, Municipality: Karnobat (with Venets, Devetintsi village, Tserkovski village)
- **Yambol district, Municipality: Straldzha (town of Straldzha, village of Atolovo, village of Lozenets)**

Within the territory of the following **RIEWs - Burgas and RIEWs - Stara Zagora**

The subject of protection (species and habitats):

1. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 3 of the BDA: Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), Pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), Great bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), Night Heron (*Nycticorax n*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Great Egret (*Egretta alba*), Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Ferruginous duck, (*Aythya nyroca*), Smew (*Mergus albellus*), Red-breasted goos (*Branta ruficollis*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Black kite (*Milvus migrans*), Short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Western marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*), Lesser spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Levant sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*), Long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), Common crane (*Grus grus*), Spotted crane (*Porzana porzana*), Little crane (*Porzana parva*), Corn Crane (*Crex crex*), Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), Pied avocet



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Figure 6. Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

(*Recurvirostra avosetta*), Eurasian stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedicephalus*), Mediterranean gull (*Larus melanocephalus*), Little gull (*Larus minutus*), Caspian tern (*Sterna caspia*), Whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybridus*), Black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), European roller (*Coracias garrulus*), Syrian woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Lesser grey shrike (*Lanius minor*), Ortolan bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*);

2. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 4 of the BDA:

Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), Great White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*), Graylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Eurasian wigeon (*Anas penelope*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), Eurasian teal (*Anas crecca*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), Northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Common merganser (*Mergus merganser*), Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), Water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*), Common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*), Little ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*), Common ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Spotted redshank (*Tringa erythropus*), Common redshank (*Tringa totanus*), Marsh sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Green sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*), Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), Caspian gull (*Larus cachinnans*), European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*).



Figure 7. Common crane (*Grus grus*)



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Conservation targets:

1. *Preservation and maintenance of the habitats of the indicated bird species to achieve their favorable conservation status;*
2. *Restoration of habitats of bird species for which it is necessary to improve their conservation status.*



Scheme activities:

1. *The construction of new drainage channels and the deepening of the existing ones are prohibited;*
2. *It is prohibited to carry out felling, except for sanitary felling up to 50 m wide from the banks of the reservoirs;*
3. *It is prohibited to remove landscape features (borders, single and groups of trees, protective forest belts, stone fences, and hedges) when using agricultural land as such;*
4. *The afforestation of meadows, pastures, and mera, as well as their conversion into arable lands and the planting of permanent crops, is prohibited;*
5. *The use of pesticides and mineral fertilizers in pastures and meadows is prohibited;*
6. *It is forbidden to mow the meadows from the periphery to the center, with fast-moving equipment and before July 15;*
7. *It is prohibited to mow the reeds in the period from March 1 to August 15;*
8. *It is forbidden to burn reeds and coastal vegetation.*

BG0000196 Mochuritsa River

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-196-122-2007)

Area: **8702.83 hectares**

Location:

- Bourgas District: Karnobat Municipality (town of Karnobat, Venets village, Glumche village, Devetak village, Devetintsi village, Zimen village, Iskra village, Klikach village, Krumovo Gradishte village, Madrino village, Nevestino village, Ognen village, Sigmen village, Church); Municipality of Sungurlare (town of Sungurlare, village of Vulchin, village of Gorovo, village of Slavyantsi, village of Chubra)



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

- District: Sliven, Municipality: Kotel (village of Mokren, village of Padarevo)
- **District of Yambol: Municipality of Straldzha (town of Straldzha, with Vodenichane, Jinot village, Zimnitsa village, Malenovo village, Palauzovo village, Charda village); Tundzha Municipality (village of Veselinovo, village of Mogila); Municipality of Yambol, the town of Yambol**

It falls on the territory of **RIEW - Bourgas** and **RIEW - Stara Zagora**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

BG0000427 Ovcharitsa River

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-427-122-2007*)

Area: **1163.72 hectares**

Location:

- Sliven District, Municipality: Nova Zagora (village of Byal Kladenets, village of Elenovo, village of Prohorovo)
- District of Stara Zagora: Municipality of Galabovo (town of Galabovo, village of Obruchishte); Municipality of Radnevo (village of Kovachevo, village of Ovcharts, village of Polski Gradets, village of Troyanovo)
- **District of Yambol, Municipality: Tundzha, Skalitsa village**

It falls on the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

BG0000192 Tundzha River 1

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-192-122-2007; Documents for change: Change in the area - increase with Decision No.811 of 16.11 .2010, issue 96/2010 of the State Gazette*)

Area: **9503.0 hectares**

Location:

- Sliven District: Nova Zagora Municipality (Banya village, Sudiysko Pole village); Municipality of Sliven (town of Sliven, village of Binkos, village of Blatets, village of Gavrailovo, village of Glufishevo, village of Gorno Alexandrovo, village of Dragodanovo, village of Zhelyu voivoda, village of Zlati voivoda, village of Kamen, village of Kovachite, the village of Krushare, the village of Malko Chochoveni, the village of Mechkarevo, the village of Panaretovtsi, the village of Samuilovo, the village of Seliminovo, the village of Strupets, the village of Trapoklovo, the village of Chintulovo); Tvarditsa Municipality (Bliznets village, Sartsevo village, Chervenakovo village)
- Stara Zagora district: Kazanlak municipality (town of Kazanlak, village of Buzovgrad, village of Gorno Cherkovishte, village of Koprinka, village of Kanchevo, village of Ovoshtnik, village of Rozovo, the village of Razhena, the village of Cherganovo); Maglizh Municipality (town of Maglizh, village of Vetren, village of Zimnitsa, village of



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Tulovo, village of Shanovo, village of Yulievo, village of Yagoda); Municipality of Nikolaevo (town of Nikolaevo, village of Elhovo, village of Nova mahala); Municipality of Pavel Banya (town of Pavel Banya, village of Alexandrovo, village of Viden, village of Gabarevo, village of Manolovo, village of Osetenovo, village of Tarnicheni)

- **District of Yambol, Municipality: Straldzha, village of Zimnitsa; Tundzha Municipality (village of Veselinovo, village of Drazhevo, village of Zavoy, village of Kabile, village of Hadzhidimitrovo); Yambol Municipality, Yambol**

It falls on the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**.

BG0000195 Tundzha River 2

Category: Protected area under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-195-122-2007*)

Area: **5948.72 hectares**

Location :

- District Haskovo, Municipality: Topolovgrad (Village Knyazhevo, Village Srem)
- **District Yambol, Elhovo Municipality (town of Elhovo, village of Boyanovo, village of Granitovo, village of Izgrev, village of Kirilovo, village of Trankovo); Tundzha Municipality (village of Karavelovo, village of Konevets, village of Kukorevo, village of Malomir, village of Okop, village of Tenevo, village of Hanovo); Municipality: Yambol, the town of Yambol**

It falls on the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

BG0000212 Sakar

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Decision No.611 of 16.10.2007, issue 85/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-212-611-2007*)

Area: **132118.2 hectares**

Location:

- Haskovo District: Lyubimets Municipality (town of Lyubimets, the village of Vaskovo, the village of Georgi Dobrev, the village of Yerusalimovo, the village of Oryahovo); Svilengrad Municipality (town of Svilengrad, village of Varnik, village of Generalovo, village of Dervishka Mogila, village of Dimitrovche, village of Kapitan Andreevo, village of Kostur, village of Levka, village of Lisovo, village of Matochina, village of Mihalich,



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

village of Mladinovo, the village of Momkovo, the village of Mustrak, the village of Pashovo, the village of Pastrogor, the village of Ravna Gora, the village of Raykova Mogila, the village of Sladun, the village of Studena, the village of Chernodub, the village of Shtit); Topolovgrad Municipality (town of Topolovgrad, village of Bulgarska Polyana, village of Dobroselets, village of Kamenna Reka, village of Kapitan Petko Voyvoda, village of Knyazhevo, village of Mramor, village of Oreshnik, village of Orlov dol, village of Planinovo, village of Prasadets, the village of Radovets, the village of Sakartsi, the village of Sinapovo, the village of Srem, the village of Ustrem, the village of Filipovo, the village of Hlyabovo, the village of Chukarovo); Harmanli Municipality (Branitsa village, Dositeevo village, Dripchevo village, Izvorovo village, Rogozinovo village, Cherepovo village)

- **Yambol district, Elhovo Municipality, the village of Malak Manastir; Tundzha Municipality (General Toshevo village, Golyam Manastir village)**

It falls on the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora and RIEW - Haskovo**

BG0002021 Sakar

Category: PA under the Birds Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Order No. RD-758 of 19.08.2010, issue 72/2010 of the State Gazette 2-1-2021-758-2010; Documents for change: Change in the regime of activities with Order No. RD -70 from 28.01.2103, issue 10/2013 of the State Gazette*)

Area: **125722.28 hectares**

Location:

- Haskovo District, Lyubimets Municipality (village of Vaskovo, village of Georgi Dobrev); Svilengrad Municipality (town of Svilengrad, village of Varnik, village of Dervishka Mogila, village of Dimitrovche, village of Kapitan Andreevo, village of Kostur, village of Levka, village of Lisovo, village of Matochina, village of Mihalich, village of Mladinovo, village of Momkovo, the village of Mustrak, the village of Pashovo, the village of Pastrogor, the village of Ravna Gora, the village of Raykova Mogila, the village of Sladun, the village of Studena, the village of Chernodub, the village of Shtit); Topolovgrad Municipality (town of Topolovgrad, village of Bulgarska Polyana, village of Dobroselets, village of Kamenna Reka, village of Kapitan Petko Voyvoda, village of Knyazhevo, village of Mramor, village of Oreshnik, village of Orlov dol, village of Planinovo, village of Prasadets, the village of Radovets, the village of Sakartsi, the village



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

of Sinapovo, the village of Srem, the village of Ustrem, the village of Filipovo, the village of Hlyabovo, the village of Chukarovo); Harmanli Municipality (Dripchevo village, Izvorovo village, Cherepovo village)

- **Yambol district: Elhovo municipality (Granitovo village, Izgrev village, Lesovo village, Malak Manastir village, Pchela village); Tundzha Municipality (village of General Toshevo, village of Golyam Manastir)**

It falls on the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora and RIEW - Haskovo**

The subject of protection (species and habitats):



Figure 8. Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*)

1. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 3 of the BDA:

Great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), Pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), Eurasian bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Great egret (*Egretta alba*), Purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*), Smew (*Mergus albellus*), Western osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Black kite (*Milvus migrans*), White-tailed sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Western marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Pallid harrier (*Circus macrourus*), Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*), Lesser spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*), Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Booted eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*), Levant sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*), Long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), Corn Crake (*Crex crex*), Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), Eurasian stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedecnemus*), Great snipe (*Gallinago media*), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybridus*), Black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), European nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), European roller (*Coracias garrulus*), Grey-headed



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

woodpecker (*Picus canus*), Black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*), Middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*), Syrian woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*), Calandra lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*), Greater short-toed lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), Tawny pipit (*Anthus campestris*), Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Lesser grey shrike (*Lanius minor*), Masked shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Pied wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*), Moustached warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*), Barred warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), Olive-tree warbler (*Hippolais olivetorum*), Red-breasted flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*), Semicollared flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*), Ortolan bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*);

2. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 4 of the BDA:

Little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), Greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), Greylag goose (*Anser anser*), Common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), Eurasian teal (*Anas crecca*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), Northern shoveler



Figure 9. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

(*Anas clypeata*), Red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*), Common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Rough-legged buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*), Steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*), Common kestrel (Kerkenez) (*Falco tinnunculus*), Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), Water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*), Common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*), Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), Little ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*), Jack snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*), Common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Eurasian woodcock (*Scolopax risticola*), Common redshank (*Tringa totanus*), Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Green sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*), Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*), White-winged tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*), Caspian gull (*Larus cachinnans*), European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Conservation targets:

1. Preservation and maintenance of the habitats of the bird species specified in item 2 to achieve their favorable conservation status;
2. Restoration of habitats of bird species under item 2, for which it is necessary to improve their conservation status.



Scheme activities:

1. It is prohibited to remove landscape features (borders, single and groups of trees) when using agricultural land as such;
2. Afforestation of pastures and meadows, as well as their conversion into arable land and the planting of permanent crops, is prohibited;
3. The use of pesticides and mineral fertilizers in pastures is prohibited;
4. It is prohibited to open new and expand the area of existing quarries and mines, except for those for which, as of the date of promulgation of the order in the State Gazette, the procedure has been initiated or agreed under Chapter Six of the Law on Protection of environment and/or art. 31 of the Biological Diversity Act;
5. The construction of new photovoltaic systems and wind generators for electricity generation is prohibited, except for those for which a procedure has been initiated in the State Gazette as of the date of promulgation of the order or have been agreed under Chapter Six of the Environmental Protection Act and/or art. 31 of the Biological Diversity Act. The regime is not applied for the construction of photovoltaic systems in properties with permanent use according to the Unified Cadastre Classifier and their corresponding codes from the groups of farms and production bases of agriculture, livestock complexes, and farms, which are connected to the electricity distribution network; wind generators, ground, roof, and façade photovoltaic systems used as own sources of electricity;
6. The construction of unsecured for birds aerial electricity transmission networks is prohibited.
7. The use of non-selective pesticides in agriculture is prohibited;
8. It is forbidden to mow the meadows from the periphery to the center with fast-moving equipment before July 15.

BG0000401 Saint Elijah's Heights

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-401-122-2007)



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Area: **8458.46 hectares**

Location:

- Sliven District, Municipality: Nova Zagora (village of Dyadovo, the village of Ezero, the village of Elenovo, the village of Omarchevo, the village of Pitovo, the village of Polsko Padarevo, the village of Prokhorovo, the village of Radevo, the village of Sokol)
- **Yambol District, Municipality: Tundzha (village of Botevo, village of Boyadzhik, village of Galabintsi, village of Zlatari, village of Meden Kladenets, village of Mezhdza, village of Savino)**

Falls within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**.

BG0000198 Sredetska River

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Decision No.122 of 02.03.2007, issue 21/2007 of the State Gazette 2-2-198-122-2007*)

Area: **707.22 hectares**

Location:

- District: Burgas, Municipality: Sredets (town of Sredets, village of Belila, village of Bistrets, village of Granitets, village of Debelt, village of Drachevo, village of Dyulevo, village of Zagortsi, village of Kubadin, village of Prohod, village of Svetlina, village of Sinyo Kamene)
- **Yambol District, Municipality: Bolyarovo (village of Golyamo Krushevo, village of Dennitsa, village of Oman)**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Burgas and RIEW - Stara Zagora**

BG0000205 Straldzha

Category: PA under the Habitats Directive (*Documents for the announcement: Order No.380 of 15.05.2020, issue 50/2020 of the State Gazette 2-2-205-380-2020*)

Area: **881.3 hectares**

Location:

- District: Burgas, Municipality: Karnobat (village Venets, Devetintsi village)
- **Yambol District, Municipality: Straldzha (town of Straldzha, village of Atolovo)**

It falls on the territory of **RIEW - Burgas and RIEW - Stara Zagora**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

The subject of protection (species and habitats):

1. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 1 of the BDA: 1340

* Continental salt meadows; 1530 * Pannonian salt steppes and salt marshes;

2. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 2 of the BDA: 2.2.1.

Mammals - European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*), Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), Marbled polecat (*Vormela peregusna*); 2.2.2. Amphibians and reptiles -



Figure 10. Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*)

European fire-bellied toad (*Bombina bombina*), Southern crested newt (*Triturus karelinii*), European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*), Greek tortoise (*Testudo graeca*), Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*), Blotched snake (*Elaphe sauromates*); 2.2.3. Fish - Round-scaled barbel (*Barbus cyclolepis*); 2.2.4. Invertebrates - Coenagrion (Ornate bluet) (*Coenagrion ornatum*).

BG0002027 Malko Sharkovo Dam

Category: PA under the Birds Directive (Documents for the announcement: Order No. RD-840 of 17.11.2008, issue 108/2008 of the State Gazette 2-1-2027-840-2008)

Area: **1327.76 hectares**

Location:

- **Yambol District, Municipality: Bolyarovo (village of Voden, village of Malko Sharkovo, village of Ruzhitsa)**

Located on the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

The subject of protection (species and habitats):

1. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 3 of the BDA: Black-throated loon (*Gavia arctica*), Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Great white heron (*Egretta alba*), Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*), White-tailed sea-



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Figure 11 Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*);

2. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 4 of the BDA:

Little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), Greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), Greylag goose (*Anser anser*),

Common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Eurasian teal (*Anas crecca*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Common merganser (*Mergus merganser*), Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*), Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Common Gull (*Larus canus*), Caspian gull (*Larus cachinnans*).



Conservation targets:

1. Preservation and maintenance of the habitats of the indicated bird species to achieve their favorable conservation status;
2. Restoration of habitats of bird species for which it is necessary to improve their conservation status.



Scheme activities:

1. It is prohibited to remove landscape features (borders, single and groups of trees) when using agricultural land as such;
2. The afforestation of meadows, pastures, and mera, as well as their conversion into arable lands and the planning of permanent crops, is prohibited;
3. The use of pesticides and mineral fertilizers in pastures and meadows is prohibited;
4. The burning of reeds and coastal vegetation is prohibited;
5. It is prohibited to reduce the area of coastal forests by native tree species.

BG0002023 Ovcharitsa Dam

Category: PA under the Birds Directive (Documents for the announcement: Order No. RD-549 of 05.09.2008, No. 83/2008 of the State Gazette 2-1-2023-549-2008; Documents for



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

change: Adoption of a Management Plan with Order No. RD -223 dated 22.04.2016, issue 37/2016 of the State Gazette)

Area: **4306.28 hectares**

Location:

- District: Sliven, Municipality: Nova Zagora (village of Byal Kladenets, village of Radetski)
- District: Stara Zagora, Municipality: Radnevo , Kovachevo village
- **Yambol district, Municipality: Tundzha (Ovchi kladenets village, Skalitsa village)**

Located on the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

The subject of protection (species and habitats):

1. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 3 of the

BDA: Black-throated loon (*Gavia arctica*), Pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), Great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), Eurasian bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Great White Egret (*Egretta alba*), Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*), Black



Figure 12. Tundra swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)

stork (*Ciconia nigra*), White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), Tundra swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*), White-eyed pochard (*Aythya nyroca*), Smew (*Mergus albellus*), White-tailed sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Short-toed Snake-Eagle (*Circus gallicus*), Western marsh harrier (*Circus ruginosus*), Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Pallid harrier (*Circus macrourus*), Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*), Lesser spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Western osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), Wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Little gull (*Larus minutus*), Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), Syrian woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), Barred warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*);

2. According to Art. 6, para. 1, item 4 of the BDA: Little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), Greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), Greylag goose (*Anser anser*), Common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Eurasian



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

teal (*Anas crecca*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Common merganser (*Mergus merganser*), Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*), Black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Common Gull (*Larus canus*), Caspian gull (*Larus cachinnans*).



Conservation targets:

1. Preservation and maintenance of the habitats of the indicated bird species to achieve their favorable conservation status;
2. Restoration of habitats of bird species for which it is necessary to improve their conservation status.



Scheme activities:

1. It is prohibited to remove landscape features (borders, single and groups of trees) when using agricultural land as such;
2. The afforestation of meadows, pastures, and fields, as well as their conversion into arable lands and the planting of permanent crops, is prohibited;
3. The use of pesticides and mineral fertilizers in pastures and meadows is prohibited;
4. Logging is prohibited, except for salvage logging up to 50 m wide from the shores of the dam;
5. It is forbidden to burn reeds and coastal vegetation.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

3.1.2.2. PROTECTED TERRITORIES, according to the Register of Protected Areas and Protected Zones in Bulgaria

BALABANA (Unique identification code in the register: 17)

Category: Maintained reserve

(Documents for the announcement: Order No.2676 of

21.12.1960, issue 20/1961 of the State Gazette 2676 -1960

Documents for change: 1. Change in the area - increase with

Order No. 752 of 19.07.1984, issue 69/198 4 of the State

Gazette 752-1984; 2. Re-categorization with Order No. 376 of

15.10.1999, no. 97/1999 of the State Gazette 376-1999; 3.

Adoption of a Management Plan with Order No. RD-590 of 04.07.2002, no. 85/2002 of the State

Gazette 590-2002; 4. Change in the area - update with Order No. RD-57 of 30.01.2008, no.

39/2008 of the State Gazette 57-2008; 5. Adoption of a Management Plan with Order No. RD-

283 of 26.05.2016, no. 48/2016 of the State Gazette 283-2016)

Digital borders - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **76.98 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol, **Municipality: Elhovo, the town of Elhovo**

Within the territory of the following **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation targets: Habitats of different species of **herons. Plain longoz forests.**



Scheme activities

Until the approval of a management plan in the maintained reserve, the following activities are allowed:

1. Carrying out salvage logging;
2. Restoration and maintenance of a riparian forest;
3. Creating conditions for nesting of herons;
4. Creating conditions for nesting of the Colchis pheasant;
5. Regulate the numbers of foxes, jackals, squirrels, and wild boars.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

BLATOTO (Unique identification code in the register: 11)

Category: Protected area

(Documents for the announcement: Order No. 1938 of 03.07.1970, issue 65/1970 of the State Gazette 1938-1970; Documents for change: Change in the area - update with Order No. RD-949 of 28.12.2007, issue 32/2008 of the State Gazette 949-2007)

Digital boundaries - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **15.45 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol , **Municipality: Straldzha, village of Palauzovo**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation targets: Preservation of natural habitat of **marsh snowdrop**



Scheme activities:

1. *It is prohibited to plow, drain or change the use of land, which leads to the destruction of the marsh snowdrop colonies*
2. *It is prohibited to graze cattle and mow the meadows before harvesting the marsh snowdrop - not earlier than May 30*

VESELINOVSKA FOREST (Unique identification code in the register: 178)

Category: Protected area

(Documents for the announcement: Order No.357 of 09.02.1973, issue 21/1973 of the State Gazette 357-1973; Documents of change: Re-categorization with Order No. RD-854 of 18.09.2002, no. 108/2002 of the State Gazette 854-2002)

Digital borders - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **15.0 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol, **Municipality: Tundzha, Veselinovo village**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation targets: Preservation of **the deciduous longoz forest.**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Scheme activities:

1. Logging is prohibited, except for salvage logging and landscaping, to improve the landscape condition of the sites. The management should be carried out according to the development projects with maximum preservation of the natural environment;
2. Grazing of cattle is prohibited at any time;
3. It is prohibited to open quarries, quarry stones, extract sand and other aggregates, dispose of slag and various industrial wastes, as well as any actions that disturb or threaten the natural environment in them.

GORNA TOPCHIYA (Unique identification code in the register: 12)

Category: Reserve

(Documents for the announcement: Decree of the Council of Ministers No.1171 of 24.09.1951, issue of the State Gazette 1171-1951; Documents for change: 1. Change in the area - increase by Order No. 754 of 19.07.1984, issue 69/1984 of the State Gazette 754-1984, 2. Change in the area - update with Order No. RD-942 of 28.12.2007, No. 32/2008 of the State Gazette 942-2007, 3. Adoption of a Management Plan by Order No. RD-799 of 02.12.2015, No. 100/2015 of the State Gazette 799-2015)



Digital borders - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: 164.38 hectares

Location: District: Yambol, **Municipality: Tundzha, Konevets village**

It falls within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Objectives of announcement: Longozna Gora



Scheme activities:

All activities are prohibited in the reserve, except for: 1. their protection; 2. visits for scientific purposes; 3. the passage of people on marked paths, including for educational purposes; 4. collection of seed material, wild plants, and animals for scientific purposes or for their restoration in other places in quantities, ways and time, excluding disturbances in the ecosystems;



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

DEBELATA KORIA - v. TENEVO (Unique identification code in the register: 55)

Category: Protected area

(Documents for declaration: Order No. 503 of 08.07.1980, issue 65/1980 of the State Gazette 503-1980; Documents for change: Change in the area - update with Order No. RD-947 of 28.12.2007, issue 32/2008 of the State Gazette 947-2007)

Digital boundaries - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **30.32 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol, **Municipality: Tundzha, Tenevo village**

Located on the territory of **RIEW: Stara Zagora**

Objectives of the announcement: Preservation of natural **ash and elm forest and characteristic landscape.**



Scheme activities:

1. *It is forbidden to graze domestic animals*
2. *It is forbidden to damage forest vegetation*
3. *It is forbidden to chase wild animals and disturb their habitats*
4. *It is forbidden to open quarries, conduct geological and other activities, which changes the landscape.*
5. *It is prohibited to carry out any construction other than that provided for in the development plan for the protected area.*
6. *It is allowed to conduct cultivation and sanitary fellings in the forests, coordinated with the regional inspection for environmental protection*



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

DOLNA TOPCHIYA (Code in the register: 18)

Category: Maintained reserve

(Documents for the announcement: Order No.225 of 29.02.1960, issue of the State Gazette 225-



1960; Documents for change: 1. Change in the area - reduction with Order No.1700 of 17.07 1961, issue of the State Gazette 1700-1961, 2. Change in the area - reduction by Order No. 756 of 19.07.1984, issue 69/1984 of the State Gazette 756-1984, 3 Re-categorization with Order No. 377 of 15.10.1999, issue 97/1999 of the State Gazette 377-1999 4. Adoption of a Management Plan by Order No. RD-590 of 04.07.2002, issue 85/2002 of the

State Gazette 590-2002 5. Change in the area - update with Order No. RD-245 of 18.04.2008, issue 73/2008 of the State Gazette 245-2008 g .; 6. Adoption of a Management Plan with Order No. RD-283 of 26.05.2016, no. 48/2016 in the Official Gazette 283-2016) The

Digital borders - WGS 84, UTM zone 35N (shp)

Area: **467.47 hectares**

Location:District: Yambol *Municipality:* Elhovo, Location: town of Elhovo with the village of Trankovo

Within the territory **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation targets: Habitat of **Colchis pheasant. Longoz forest.**



Scheme of activities:

Until the management plan's approval in the maintained reserve, the following activities are allowed: 1. The carrying out of salvage logging 2. The restoration and maintenance of a riparian forest; 3. Creating conditions for nesting of the Colchis pheasant; 4. Regulate the numbers of foxes, jackals, squirrels, and wild boars.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

DRANCHI DUPKA (Unique identification code in the register: 232)

Category: Natural landmark

(Documents for the announcement: Order No.37 of 11.01.1968, issue 43/1968 of the State Gazette 37-1968)

Digital boundaries - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **5.0 hectares**

Location: Region: Yambol **Municipality: Elhovo, v. Mill**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation target: 1. Protection of a **cave**



Scheme of activities:

1. *It is forbidden to cut, prune and damage trees, as well as to cut or uproot any plants*
2. *It is forbidden to graze any livestock and at any time*
3. *It is forbidden to chase wild animals, birds, and their young and the destruction of their nests and lairs*
4. *It is prohibited to open quarries for stones, sand, and soil, which conducts and changes the natural appearance of the area and including water currents*
5. *It is prohibited to break, scratch, and damage in any way stalactites, stalagmites, and other rock formations in the caves*

TUNDJA GORGE (Code in the register: 452)No. PД

Scheme of activities

Category: Protected area

(Documents for the announcement: Order-385 of 13.06.2007, No. 61/2007 of the State Gazette 385-2007)

Digital borders - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **1891.21 hectares**

Location:

- District: Haskovo, Municipality: Topolovgrad, Village of Radovets
- District: Yambol, **Municipality: Elhovo , village of Lesovo**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Haskovo**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Conservation targets:

1. Protection and conservation of significant habitats of 149 species of birds, 8 species of amphibians, 21 species of reptiles, other protected, rare and vulnerable plant and animal species, their communities, as well as remarkable landscape;



Scheme of activities:

1. It is prohibited to build industrial sites, buildings, roads, canals, technical and other facilities, including for the production of electricity, except for construction and activities related to the protection of the state border of the Republic of Bulgaria;
2. It is prohibited to search for and study mineral resources, to open quarries, mines, and other activities leading to damage to the natural landscape and disturbance of the natural condition of the waters and the shores;
3. The planting of crops of non-native species, except for naturalized species, shall be prohibited.

IVAN GOL (Unique identification code in the register: 10)

Category: Protected area

(Documents of announcement: Order No. 1938 of 03.07.1970, issue 65/1970 of the State Gazette 1938-1970; Documents for change: Change in the area - update with Order No. RD-946 of 28.12.2007, issue 32/2008 of the State Gazette 946-2007)

Digital boundaries - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **31.26 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol **Municipality:** Yambol city of Yambol

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation target: 1. The protection of the natural habitat of the **marsh snowdrop**.



Figure 13. Marsh snowdrop



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Scheme of activities:

1. It is forbidden to plow, drain or change the way of using the terrains, which leads to the destruction of the marsh snowdrop habitats
2. It is forbidden to graze cattle and mow the meadows before harvesting the snowdrop - not earlier than 30 May

LONGOZITE (Unique identification code in the register: 502)

Category: Protected area

(Documents of announcement: Order No. PД-619 of 27.07.2007, issue 72/2007 of the State Gazette 619-2007; Documents for change: Change in the area - update with Order No. RD-832 of 14.11.2011, issue 96/2011 of the State Gazette 832-2011)

Digital boundaries - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **176.91 hectares**

Location:

- District: Yambol, **Municipality: Elhovo, Boyanovo village**
- District: Yambol, **Municipality: Tundzha, Konevets village**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**



Scheme of activities:

1. Construction of buildings, roads, and canals is prohibited;
2. It is prohibited to open quarries and mines, change the water regime and river flow, pollution with chemical substances, industrial and household waste;
3. It is prohibited to establish personal and auxiliary farms;
4. Hunting is prohibited;
5. It is forbidden to collect eggs and to damage the birds' nests;
6. It is allowed to cultivate the land from the land fund.
7. It is allowed to conduct forestry activities in the plantations;
8. It is allowed to carry out measures for improving the condition of the Colchite pheasant's communities, as well as the improvement of the condition of the ecosystems in the reserve, according to a plan previously agreed with the Committee for Environmental Protection and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences;
9. Fishing on the Tundzha River is allowed.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

VAGENITSOVA METLICHINA HABITAT (Unique identification code in the register: 547)



Figure 14. Centaurea wagenitziana

Category: Protected area

(Documents for declaration: Order No. ПД-685 of 29.08.2012, issue 75/2012 of the State Gazette 685-2012)

Digital boundaries - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **29.97 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol, **Municipality: Elhovo, village of Golyam Dervent**

within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation target: 1. Conservation of plant species

Centaurea wagenitziana (Centaurea wagenitziana Bancheva & Kit Tan) and its habitat.



Scheme of activities:

1. It is prohibited to change the purpose and mode of the permanent use of the land;
2. The search for, exploration, and extraction of mineral resources is prohibited;
3. Construction is prohibited;
4. Afforestation is prohibited.

MEADOW SAFFRON (MRAZOVETS) HABITAT IN ORMANA LOCALITY (Unique identification code in the register: 487)



Figure 15. Meadow saffron

Category: Natural landmark

(Documents of announcement: Order No.521 of 20.05.1985, issue 45/1985 of the State Gazette 521-1985)

Digital boundaries - WGS 84, UTM zone 35N (shp)

Size: **0.8 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol **Municipality:** Yambol, Location: city of Yambol

within the **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation target: 1. Protecting the habitat of **meadow saffron**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Scheme of activities:

1. Any activities that lead to damage or destruction of trees are prohibited
2. It is prohibited to cut or uproot plants
3. It is prohibited to enter, camp, pass and park motor vehicles
4. It is prohibited to open quarries and to carry out mining-geological and other activities, which damage or change both the natural appearance of the area and the water regime
5. It is prohibited to carry out logging, except for salvage logging
6. Construction is prohibited

Veronica multifida Habitat - Lesovo (Unique identification code in the register: 548)

Category: Protected area

: Documents for the announcement: Order No. PД-814 of 29.10.2012, no. 95/2012 of the State Gazette 814-2012)

Digital borders - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **18.58 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol, **Municipality: Elhovo, Lesovo village**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation target: the conservation of the plant species **Veronica multifida** and its habitat



Figure 16. Veronica multifida



Scheme of activities:

1. It is prohibited to change the purpose and mode of permanent use of the land;
2. The search for, exploration, and extraction of mineral resources is not permitted;
3. Construction is prohibited;
4. It is prohibited to import non-native species.

PTITSITE (THE BIRDS) (Unique identification code in the register: 497)

Category: Protected area



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

(Documents for the announcement: Order No. RD-518 of 12.07.2007, issue 72/2007 of the State Gazette 518-2007)

Digital boundaries - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **65.0 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol, **Municipality: Elhovo, the town of Elhovo**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**



Scheme of activities:

1. The construction of buildings, roads, and canals is prohibited;
2. It is prohibited to open quarries, change the water regime and the flow of the Tundzha River, to pollute with chemical substances, industrial and household waste;
3. Hunting is prohibited;
4. It is forbidden to collect eggs and damage the birds' nests;
5. It is prohibited to use chemical pesticides in agriculture and forestry;
6. Grazing of domestic animals in section 40 "c" is prohibited;
7. The cultivation of agricultural lands is permitted
8. The cultivation of agricultural lands is permitted
9. Grazing of domestic animals is permitted

TETROLIKA (Code in the register: 499)



Figure 17. Tulipa Splendens

Category: Natural landmark

(Documents of the announcement: Order No.425 of 18.05.1987, issue 45/1987 of the State Gazette 425-1987)

Digital boundaries - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **16.5 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol **Municipality: Tundja (Pobeda, village of Simeonovo)**

within the territory of **RIEW- Stara Zagora**

Conservation target: Protection of the only habitat of the **Tulipa Splendens (Blestiashto lale)** – a Bulgarian endemic.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Scheme of activities:

1. Any activities that lead to damage or destruction of trees are prohibited
2. It is prohibited to cut or uproot plants
3. It is forbidden to enter, camp, pass, and park with motor vehicles
4. It is prohibited to open quarries, conduct mining, geological and other activities that damage or alter both the natural appearance of the area and the water regime
5. The pasture of domestic animals is prohibited
6. Construction is prohibited
7. Replanting of bulbs of the *Tulipa Spendens* is allowed when coordinated with BAS and KOPS

TARNAVSKI BAKADJIK (Code in the register: 556)

Category: Protected area

(Documents for the announcement: Order No. RD-31 of 16.01.2013, no. 14/2013 of the State Gazette 31-2013)

Digital borders - WGS 84, UTM 35N zone (shp)

Area: **14.88 hectares**

Location: District: Yambol, **Municipality: Tundzha (Pobeda village, Tarnava village)**

Within the territory of **RIEW - Stara Zagora**

Conservation targets: Conservation of the plant species ***Astracantha thracica*** and its habitat



Figure 18. *Astracantha thracica*



Scheme of activities:

1. It is prohibited to change the purpose and mode of permanent use of the land;
2. Construction is not permitted, except for activities related to reconstruction and repair of existing facilities;
3. The search for, exploration, and extraction of mineral resources is prohibited;
4. It is prohibited to import non-native species.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

3.2. Natural resources and protected areas in the Turkish part of the cross-border region

Genetic diversity in Turkey is significant, especially concerning the plant genetic resources, as the country is located at the intersection of the Mediterranean and the Middle East Genetic Center. These two regions are crucial for the emergence of cereals and horticultural crops.

A number of protected areas have been declared, such as national parks, nature parks, Ramsar sites, etc., and in the last few years, their number has increased. In Turkey, the protected areas are as follows: **41 national parks** (898,044 ha), **31 natural areas** (46,575 ha), **34 nature parks** (79 299 ha), **103 natural monuments** (5,541 ha), **14 territories** (1,211,254 ha), **81 game protection areas** (1,201,285 ha) and **13 Ramsar sites** (203,762 ha). Since 2000, the share of protected areas with different status in the country's total area has increased from 4% to about 6%.

Kirklareli Province has two protected areas: **the Kastura Körfezi reserve**, the black pine population habitat, and lake Saka's reserve.

Via Pontica passes along the Black Sea coast (Northern Anatolia), which also crosses Kirklareli province.

The National Park lake Gala is located in the province of Edirne. It is a wetland (Class I of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) and covers an area of 2,369 ha. The park is home to 111 species of birds, many of which are extremely rare and endangered. In the lake Gala, at the mouth of the Maritsa River, there are 6 plant formations. There are 5 nature wood reserves in the region, as well as 5 other wetlands with the same status (Class I according to the Ministry of Natural Resources).

In addition to the lake Gala, the area around lakes Golbala and Egribuyuk (about 1,500) has been declared a wetland - a natural site of Class I (Decision № 4218 of 25.09.1997 of the Council for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Resources of Edrine by the Ministry of Culture).

The places that meet the definition of a "wetland" in the region are the Maritsa River's delta, the Saros Bay, and the Ergene River valley.

3.2.1. Strandzha Mountain

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

The protection requirements of Strandzha, which is one of the five most significant zones in Eastern Europe, are of a key importance. 345 new plant species have been registered here. There are 1,377 species of plants. 14 species have been added to the Thracian fauna and 16 species have been recorded.

Flora in Thrace (European Turkey)

Thrace occupies a small part of Turkey, with an area of 23,500 square kilometers, located in southeastern Europe, west of the Aegean Sea and east of the Black Sea. It is separated from the rest of Turkey and mainland Asia south of the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, which connect the Aegean with the Black Sea. Compared to the rest of Turkey, the topography in Thrace is relatively low.

Strandzha Mountain is located in northeastern Thrace, with the highest peak Mahiada (1,035 m). This mountain range borders the Black Sea and is an extension of the Black Sea mountains, reaching southeastern Bulgaria. The chain consists mainly of shale and is covered with forest vegetation, wet northern slopes, *Fagus orientalis* forests, and *Rhododendron ponticum* shrubs.

In southwestern Thrace, near the mountains of Ganos (Tekir) and Kuro, which continue to the south and merge with the Gallopoli Peninsula, the vegetation is primarily Mediterranean, with *Pinus brutia* forests. Most of it is occupied by slightly undulating lowlands with a height of less than 200 m, drained by Ergene, and is almost completely cultivated.

Nearly 2,250 species (including subspecies and varieties) were registered in European Turkey. Even though this hardly compares to the richer in species Asian Turkey, the plant diversity is exceptionally high, given the small area of Thrace, with few regions over 1000 sq. m. Much of the local vegetation has been destroyed and used for logging. Climatic conditions and habitat diversity can explain the relatively rich biodiversity in Thrace. Besides, European Turkey is where the Mediterranean, Balkan-Central European, Sarmatian, and Euxine climate regimes combine.

More than 300 rare and endangered species can be found in Turkish Thrace, 50 of which are more common here than anywhere else in the world. Several habitats in the region are of national and even international importance for the protection of the natural environment, namely:

- ♣ Sand dunes along the Black Sea coast



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

- ♣ Wetlands consisting of long forests and reeds surrounding the coastal lagoons
- ♣ Wet Thracian-Euxine forests on the northern slopes of Strandzha
- ♣ Part of the bushes and dry, calcareous pastures, showing characteristics typical of the European steppes.

Important Plant Species in Strandja

Of the 122 Important Plant Areas (IPA) identified in Turkey (Özhatay et al., 2003), **Strandja and the longoz forests near Ineada** are located within Strandzha, while Kasatura and Terkos are located partly in the area.

Strandzha Mountain includes a low mountain range that stretches for more than 70 kilometers from the Rezovska River, which marks the border with Bulgaria. Many rivers flow here, either east into the Black Sea or southwest, into the Ergene River catchment area. For the most part, the mountains are afforested with eastern beech, oak, and mixed forests, along with smaller areas of meadows and pastures. More than 600 taxa have been registered in IPA, of which 39 are considered nationally rare, including one globally endangered species (*Symphytum pseudobulbosum*) and three species covered by the Berne Convention (*Cyclamen coum*, *Vaccinium arctostophylos*, *Veronica turriliana*).

Due to its proximity to the border with Bulgaria, IPA supports several endemic species from Turkey that are extremely important, such as Euxine/Black Sea species and Balkan and Central European species. This is of international importance since the largest area of high forests (especially the Euxine Eastern Beech *Rhododendron* Forest) in European Turkey includes species that are almost non-existent in Europe. IPA' significance is outlined by providing:

- one of the two best examples of ash-oak-alder forest in Turkey
- undisturbed sandy vegetation;
- the rich flora in the dunes and wetlands, which includes internationally protected species.

3.2.2. INEADA

Ineada or Igneada (Turkish: İğneada) is a small town, the center of a municipality in the district of Malak Samokov, Lozengrad Province (Kirkclareli), Turkey. Ineada includes a complex of **dense, wet forests ("longoz")**, swamps, and marshes, formed after a sand embankment on the Black Sea coast, with a length of 10 km. and a depth of 300 meters.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



Figure 19. *Centaurea arenaria*

This provides a natural barrier for the rivers flowing into the Black Sea from Strandzha to the west (especially the rivers Cavushdere and Bulanekdere), which leads to the appearance of typical for the dunes vegetation on the sand embankment and a mosaic of wet forests and habitats behind the embankment.

The Ineada region has rich biodiversity and the natural balance in the area is undisturbed. Approximately 670

plant species and many animals are observed in the region: mammals (such as deer, roe deer, wild boar, wolf, fox, jackal, wild cat, weasel, ferret, bat, otter), 194 species of birds (such as pygmy owl, cormorant, white-tailed eagle, lesser kestrel, gray woodpecker), lizard, green lizard, skink, snake, turtle, insects (such as a butterfly), fish (such as anchovy, monkey goby, ray-finned fish, bleak, narrow-snouted pipefish, amur bitterling, and perch). There are at least 11 rare plant species (including *Centaurea arenaria*, which is found only in this area in Turkey) and five species listed in Annex I of the Bern Convention (*Auriniauechtritiziana*, *Salvinia natans*, *Silene sangaria*, *Trapa natans*, and *Verbascum degenii*).

3.2.3. Ineada Longoz Forest National Park



The area is located near the resort town of Ineada on the Turkish Black Sea coast. The unique Strandzha longoz forests near Lake Saka in the Ineada area are a magnificently preserved biosphere reserve, which in 2007 was officially declared a National Park. Here can be found sand dunes, wetlands, lakes, longoz forests, and if we add the dry forests, these are five different ecosystems

full of life.

Streams of water coming from the mountains before flowing into the sea form lakes or swamps on the Black Sea coast. Because of the vast sand dunes in front of the lakes, the water in them cannot flow into the sea as they overflow due to the spring's rains and flow into the ground inland. **These flooded areas, called longoz, are an ecosystem different from any other lake or forest ecosystem.** The water level is significant and is



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

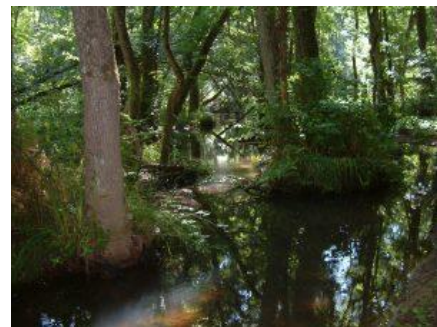
PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

maintained during each of the four seasons. The acidic soils, rich in organic matter, contribute to enhancing the biological richness of the longoz forest, which develops similarly to the tropical one. There are three separate areas in this area - **Lake Ericley, Lake Mert, and Lake Saka.**

3.2.4. The lakes of Ineada

The lakes within the Ineada region are known for their many species of fish and an oxygen-rich atmosphere. Although there are 7 lakes in the vicinity of Ineada, the most important are Mert, Hama, Erikli, and Saka. About 30 species of fish are known to live in the lanes of Ineada and in the lakes and streams in the wetland, and according to the Berne Convention, 8 of them are described as "species in need of protection". These are bleak, black-striped pipefish, monkey goby, aspius, bleaker, ray-finned fish, amur bitterling, and common nase. Among the lakes, Mert has the widest variety of fish. Lakes Hamam and Pedina can also be defined as habitats for birds, wild ducks, and swans migrating from Bulgaria, Russia, and the Danube River.



The *longoz* forests are completely flooded in winter and spring, with a mixed floral set of different types of trees from 8 to 15 meters high. As alluvial soils are characterized by the more intensive activity of microorganisms, forests and other plants in the region begin their growing season earlier than plants in other areas. Protecting the habitat of these forests is crucial.

Lake Hammam is surrounded by forests. It is located 20 km south of Ineada, 2 km from the Black Sea at 20 m above sea level. Its area is 19 hectares, and its deepest point is 2.6 m. The lake is supplied with water from many streams from the interior, and excess water is discharged into the Bulaik stream through a canal located in the southeast. Perch and crabs are an important part of the fauna of the water basin.

The long lake Saka is located south of Ineada and was formed during the Bulaik stream filling. Almost 5 hectares of reed fields belong to the lake. This land is underwater in spring



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

and autumn due to rising water levels and forms the so-called *longoz*, a rare phenomenon in Turkey and Europe. *Longoz* forest is of mixed type. The tree species are presented by alder, mountain elm, European ash, oak, hornbeam, common beech, black poplar, willow, linden, and chestnut. It was declared a protected area in 1988.

Lake Pedina is located 25 km south of Ineada and 5 km west of Lake Hamam and is located entirely in a forest, as well as Lake Hamam. Its area is 10 hectares and the deepest point is 2.10 meters. The lake is filled with water from numerous streams flowing inland, including the Pedina stream, and transfers excess water to the Bulanik stream through a canal.

The *longoz* forest of ash-oak-alder is dominated by *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus Angustifolia* ssp. *oxycarpa* in wet areas and a range of *Quercus* species (especially *Q. Robur*) in drier areas. These forests are a rare and distinctive feature of several flooded valleys on the Black Sea's southwestern shores in Bulgaria and Turkey.



The flora on the sand embankment is undoubtedly the most important floral element of the place, including rare endemics for the Turkish / Bulgarian part of the Black Sea. Known taxa include *Auriniaeuchtritzi*, *Centaurea Arenaria*, *C. kilaea*, *Jurinea kilaea*, *Peucedanum obtusifolium*, *Stachys Maritima*, *Silene sangaria*, and *S. dichotoma* ssp. *euxina*.

An extensive system of coastal dunes is located in Kasatura and Terkos. The flora is exceptional and includes a variety of rare species, including the internationally significant populations of *Asperula littoralis*, *Isatis Arenaria*, and *Linum tauricum* subspecies *bospori*.

The Turkish Strandja Biosphere reserve inventory already amounts to 1,369 taxa; 339 taxa were added to the list earlier (another eight taxa were registered from the areas that are peripheral to the reserve boundary). Most of these additional 339 taxa are known elsewhere in Thrace, but 20 are new, including seven taxa new to Turkey. Two more taxa represent new species for botany. The Endemic vascular plants, a total of 17 taxa, are critical for the Biosphere Reserve's flora's conservation status., Some of them are widespread, and others are rare for Turkey,



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Of the 17 endemic taxa, 15 are listed in Annex 1 of the Bern Convention (Annex II). These endemic species are as follows: *Allium rumelicum*, *Anthyllis vulneraria* subsp. *variegata*, *Asperula littoralis*, *Centaurea hermannii*, *Centaurea kilaea*, *Cirsium baytopae*, *Erysimum sorgerae*, *Euphorbia amygdoloides* var. *robbiae*, *Isatis arenaria*, *Jasione heldreichii* subsp. *papillosa*, *Jurinea kilaea*, *Jurinea turcica*, *Lamium purpureum* var. *aznavourii*, *Peucedanum obtusifolium*, *Silene sangaria*, *Symphytum pseudobulbosum* and *Verbascum degenii*.

Ten rare taxa are protected under Annex I of the Berne Convention. It is one of the most important international legal instruments for the protection of species operating within Turkey. These 10 taxa include three endemics: *Aurinia uechtritziana*, *Centaurea hermannii*, *Cyclamen coum* var. *coum*, *Salvinia natans*, *Silene sangaria*, *Trapa natans*, *Vaccinium arctostaphylos*, *Verbascum degenii*, *Verbascum purpureum*, *Veronica turrilliana*.

The endangered species, according to the Turkish Red Book (2000), consist of: 16 globally endangered species, all of which are endemic; seven species endangered in Europe (not endemic, but rare with limited distribution); and 94 nationally endangered taxa, found only in European Turkey and not in Anatolia (mostly Balkan species). Thus, a total of 116 taxa are endangered and it is essential that their habitats are preserved through conservation and sustainable management.



The Ineada longo forests are one of the so-called **"Hot spots" in Turkey** that requires immediate protective action as they are directly affected by environmental issues.

IV. CURRENT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CROSS-BORDER REGION

1. Analysis of the state of the components of the natural environment

1. 1. Air and climate

1.1.1. Overview



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Atmospheric air conditions in the CBR geographical area are relatively good. Air pollution's leading causes are emissions from fuel used in industry and domestic heating and exhaust gases from vehicles.

Along with the excellent air quality in the mountainous region, "hot spots" are registered (e.g., in the Bulgarian town of Dimitrovgrad, there are three major air and water pollutants - the plant for nitrogen fertilizers "Neochim," TPP "Maritsa East 3" and the cement Vulcan plant).

In general, over the last few years, the index of total air pollution has been declining in both countries in the territory of cooperation. Nevertheless, the primary air pollutants are emissions from industry and domestic heating and transport gases.

Bulgaria's air quality is relatively good, while the air quality in the two Turkish provinces is not satisfactory, but is improving.

Air pollution caused by transport emissions is a challenge that needs to be addressed in the border regions by raising awareness and implementing measures to keep the environment clean.

The negative impact on air quality comes from the busy traffic in larger cities and major connecting roads, as well as from the mass use of solid fuel (wood, coal) for domestic heating, especially on the Bulgarian side.

Concentration levels depend on annual fluctuations in weather conditions, including sunshine, natural emissions of ozone precursors from vegetation, and the transport of ozone and ozone precursors from sources outside Europe.

Emissions of pollutants contribute to warming and thus to climate change.

Climate change is a severe threat to the regions. It is a multidimensional and complex challenge with major environmental and socio-economic consequences and is a threat to national security. The range of its possible impacts is one of the most critical threats to humanity that future generations will face.

The defined geographical region for cross-border cooperation Bulgaria - Turkey is located in southeastern Europe, in the southeast part of the Balkan Peninsula. The Black and White Seas influences are combined in this region; Strandzha, Sakar, Stara Planina, and the Eastern Rhodopes and the rivers Maritsa / Tundzha shape the climate in the area. The climate varies from transitional-continental to continental-Mediterranean.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu**1.1.2. Bulgaria**

The cross-border region climate is diverse - from temperate-continental, transitional-continental and mountainous to Mediterranean in the river valleys.

In particular, Bulgaria's climate is temperate-continental, with a transition to subtropical in its Mediterranean variety (in the southern parts of the country), with four seasons.

In recent years, there has been an increase in severe weather occurrences. The effects of rising temperatures have an adverse effect on ecological and socio-economic systems. The impacts are more significant when the climate changes are more considerable and fast.

In Bulgaria, the adverse impacts are related, for example, to winter tourism, the intensification of floods and droughts, and pests and plant diseases.

There could also be positive effects in the form of a possible increase in agriculture outputs and forestry productivity, and reduced energy needs for heating.

Air quality status

Regarding emissions of pollutants for ten years period, the concentration of nitrogen dioxide in the atmosphere has decreased by 53%, of sulfur dioxide by 65% (mainly due to the reduction of emissions from thermal power plants after the installation of sulfur treatment plants).), ammonia by 62%, non-metallic volatile organic compounds by 85%. In 2012, the total GHG emissions were 61,045.63 Gg CO₂-eq. or 50.1% of the referent year's emissions.

In the last year, the atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitric oxide (N₂O), and halogenated hydrocarbons, i.e., greenhouse gases, have increased as a result of human activities. Greenhouse gases do not allow the temperature to radiate back into space and lead to global warming.

Transport is a significant source of nitrogen oxide emissions, accounting for 28.3% of national emissions. As for other ozone precursor substances, transport is a minor source, as carbon monoxide emissions alone account for 9.25% of the national emissions.

1.1.3. Turkey**Air Quality**



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group on Climate change (MEGIC), Turkey has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions and primary energy consumption per capita.

According to data from 2007, greenhouse gas emissions per capita in Turkey were 5.3 tons of CO₂ equivalent, while the EU-27 average is 10.2 tons CO₂ equivalent.

In Turkey, total greenhouse gas emissions in 2010 were 401.9 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent; the transport sector accounts for 46.6 million tonnes of CO₂.

In Turkey, the total CO₂ emissions in 2010 were 326.5 million tons, 45.6 million tons from transport.

Climate change

Turkey is located in the Mediterranean basin, which is particularly vulnerable to climate change's adverse effects.

According to the National Climate Change Strategy for 2010- 2020, approved in 2010 by a Decision of the Turkish High Planning Council, Turkey seeks to support and facilitate its efforts to reduce emissions and adjustment using funding and opportunities for transfer of technologies that are available in countries with a similar economic background.

All internal resources, mainly water, and wind will be used to their optimal capacity through cleaner production technologies and the best available techniques in line with energy security and climate change objectives and within the scope of local and international funding.

Besides, the use of low or zero-emissions technologies will be encouraged, mainly from renewable energy sources, clean coal, and nuclear energy. R&D for clean technologies and energy resources will be performed, and their use in local production will be supported.

1.2. Water

1.2.1. Overview

The rivers with shared waters between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey are the rivers Maritsa, Tundzha, and Arda. The primary pollutants of surface waters are



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

domestic sewage from urban sewerage systems in larger towns and cities, and untreated industrial wastewater discharged into rivers.

Regarding the status of surface waters in the trans-border region, they are characterized by large amounts of organic matter (microbes and decomposing organic waste), which presents a potential risk to aquatic ecosystems and human health. Reducing the amount of oxygen in the water due to the decomposition of organic matter can endanger life in the water by suffocation and disrupt the ecological balance. It can also contaminate water used for drinking and bathing. High levels of BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) may indicate such contamination.

It is important to note that the leading cause of water pollution is the lack of sewerage systems in most small municipalities. In groundwater, the pollution is from phosphates and nitrates. In Haskovo and Yambol Districts, almost 70% of the population lives in places with a public water supply and sewerage systems, which is close to the national average. In contrast, in Burgas District, almost the entire population lives in places with a public water supply and sewerage systems.

In the Turkish provinces of Edirne and Kirklareli, 100% of the population uses water supply networks (2010). The percentage of the population served by treatment water plants is 41% in Edirne and 24% in Kirklareli. Respectively, investment in water supply facilities, with the Kirklareli Province, is much higher (over 210,000 TL) than in the Edirne Province (around 6,000 TL) (see Turkish Statistical Institute, 2010).

1.2.2. Bulgaria

Water management in the Republic of Bulgaria is carried out at national and basin level. In the following regions water management is carried out at the level of basins: Danube region with center Pleven; Black Sea region with center Varna; East Aegean region with center Plovdiv and West Aegean region with center Blagoevgrad.

The surface waters are in good condition. Rivers are polluted in areas around large settlements, especially in those without wastewater treatment plants. The transition to a market economy and the decline in industrial production and agriculture have reduced pollutants discharged into the water, including a reduction in nutrient substances (nitrogen and phosphorus). As a result, nearly 75% of the country's rivers meet the standards of good quality. The improvement in water quality began in 1998 - between



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

1998 and 2007 there was a clear trend towards sustainability and a slight improvement in all indicators of water quality.

It is important to note that there are a number of river sectors in some areas which are in a deplorable ecological state.

Groundwater - Groundwaters have average nitrate content values, which are the leading polluter of groundwater in the country.

In general, it can be noted that due to the geographical location, the particular circulation of the atmosphere, and the structure of the landscape, the water balance in Bulgaria is unfavorable. As a volume of water resources per capita, Bulgaria ranks last on the Balkan Peninsula. Bulgaria also faces serious challenges, mainly because it falls into the arid region in terms of global climate change. Water resources are unevenly distributed throughout its territory, water supply systems are depleted to a great extent, and sewerage systems are insufficient. In this regard, long-term priorities are the reduction of the negative impacts of global warming and decrease precipitations. The construction of sewerage and wastewater treatment plants lags behind the building of water supply systems, and many aquatic ecosystems in Bulgaria continue to be at risk.

Water supply is provided by utility companies or through self-supply. The primary water-intensive sectors are agriculture, industry, households, and services.

The water consumption level in the country is determined mainly by the use of water in energy production, which requires significant volumes of water for cooling.

After use, the water is drained into the public sewerage network and water bodies. There are two categories - wastewater and water from cooling processes. Wastewater discharged into water bodies comes from the public sewerage network (including independent sources), from businesses and households.

Wastewater treatment is done locally or in municipal wastewater treatment plants. The estimates for the population that uses drainage and water treatment services are based on information from the water supply and sewerage operators and the municipalities with organized drainage of water in urban wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). The share of this population may be overestimated due to settlements with a partially built sewerage network. The population whose waters are transported by tanks to the sewerage system or WWTP is not included.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

The water supply system is well developed in Bulgaria and provides connectivity for 98.8% of its population. However, due to the poor condition of the water supply network in Bulgaria, there is a high percentage of water distribution losses, which reaches an average of 59.5%.

The border region is in a much better position in terms of water supply resources and infrastructure than many other regions and localities in both countries. However, obsolete equipment, mostly made of asbestos pipes, leads to health and hygiene problems and inefficiencies (water losses, frequent need for repairs, etc.).

As for Bulgaria's sewerage system, only 69.2% of the population is connected to the network. The connection to the sewerage system is better in the cities, where 70.5% of the population is connected to the sewerage system, while in the villages the percentage barely reaches 2.1%. Only 39.9% of the total population of Bulgaria is connected to wastewater treatment plants.

Only the main settlements (larger municipalities) in the cross-border region have sewerage systems. Most of the region's wastewater flows directly into the rivers, causing damage and serious environmental problems. As this issue is closely linked to water quality improvement, significant upgrades should be made in the coming years.

1.2.3. Turkey

In Turkey, the efficient use of natural resources and their conservation is becoming imperative due to the growing population, rapid urbanization, and industrialization. Turkey is not rich in water resources, and its waters are not evenly distributed throughout the country. There are 25 river basins, but only 4 of them account for 37 percent of annual rainfall, which means that the availability of water resources cannot meet demand at the right time and place. Turkey cannot control its water resources due to its topographic features. Also, Turkey is geologically very young, and its rivers are unstable. The water cannot be used without some preparation due to the steep middle slopes of the pools. Turkey should take precautions to avoid further aggravation of the situation. Water potential and quality are crucial for Turkey. For accurate water resources management, water quality and quantity should be continuously monitored.

Due to Turkey's climatic conditions, the rainfall/ flow rate ratio, which is subject to seasonal changes, also shows significant differences between the years. The natural water supply drops to the lowest values when the demand is highest. The country's water



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

resources are susceptible to droughts, and such occur every fifteen years. In addition to the unstable water regime, floods are a constant threat and pose great danger to wildlife. Therefore, periodic droughts require the construction of dams to regulate water for a period of one year or longer.

The main reasons for the decline in water quality in Turkey are: the overuse of natural resources due to rapid urbanization and industrialization, domestic, industrial and agricultural activities.

In Turkey, lakes and dams are essential for water supply to industry, agriculture, and potable water. Domestic and industrial wastewater and fertilizers and pesticides negatively affect water quality in lakes, deteriorating the nitrogen/phosphorus balance compared to the acceptable standards.

Rivers are vital for drinking water supply, irrigation, and fisheries. The most crucial factor in river pollution in Turkey is the discharge of domestic, industrial, and agricultural wastewater into rivers. There are still many heavily polluted and bad-looking rivers in Turkey. Another cause of river pollution is erosion. As a result of soil erosion and solid particles from agricultural land, phosphorus is transferred to surface waters, leading to eutrophication. Population growth, urbanization, industrial activities, pesticide use, and excessive fertilizer use are other factors that are rapidly increasing river pollution.

With the increase of environmental issues and surface water pollution in coming years, groundwater quantity and quality will be more critical. The causes of groundwater pollution are household and industrial waste as well as those related to agriculture.

Data from Turkey reveals the pollution of rivers with heavy metals is as follows:

- Ø **River Maritsa** - at the point of its entry into the Turkish territory, the content of nitrites, ammonia, iron, copper, chromium, cobalt, nickel, and lead varies in Class II, III, and IV levels of pollution on different days. River Maritsa absorbs some pollution in its Turkish section, but after the rivers, Tundzha and Arda flow into it, its flow rate increases, and the pollution level drops.
- Ø **Tundzha River** - at the point of its entry into the Turkish territory, the content of nitrites, copper, chromium, cobalt, nickel, and lead correspond to pollution Class II and III.
- Ø **Arda River** - at the point of its entry into the Turkish territory, Class I requirements are met; however, its nitrites, cobalt, nickel, and lead contents correspond to Class II and III norms.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Water supply, sewerage, and water treatment

Finally, it is vital to consider the state of water use by the population living within the CBC OP's geographical scope. There has been a trend of increasing water use in recent years and a decrease in water discharged into water bodies due to the increase in the number of people who have access to wastewater treatment plants (especially for the province of Edirne).

1.3. Soils

1.3.1. General information

Soils are an integral part of the environment, along with the atmosphere and hydrosphere, and are one of the most valuable natural resources for humans, animals, and plants. Soils have many ecological functions that are essential for the environment and the economy, and society's development.

The effects on soils caused by human activity are constantly intensifying, leading to an unsustainable soil erosion level, chemical pollution, and biological degradation.

Besides, the quality of the agricultural soil is changing with the expansion of urbanization and infrastructure development. Preventing soil degradation is a significant challenge. This might be achieved through special soil protection measures and in management policy and by including soil protection issues in other sectoral policies, e.g., in agriculture, forestry, water management, transport, etc.

1.3.2. Bulgaria

The current state of land use, land cover, and organic farming

Of 111 thousand hectares in Bulgaria in 2012: 32.2% are planted with crops; 16.8% are grassy areas; 42.5% are forests; 1.01% are waters and wetlands, and 2.3% are artificial lands.

According to the National Report on the State and Protection of the Environment (NRSPE) in the Republic of Bulgaria for 2007-2012, Bulgaria's land use was variable. In 2012, the utilized agricultural area (UAA) was 46.2% of the whole country's territory, and, compared to 2011, it increased by 0.7%.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Uncultivated land occupies 3.2% of the country, decreasing by 10.1% compared to the previous year. In 2012, the area of agricultural land (LSAP) was 5,481,222 ha, which is about 50% of the country's territory. Arable land increased by 2.1% compared to 2011 and occupied 3,294,685 ha or 64.3% of the UAA (see figure below).

In Bulgaria, there are few limited areas of contaminated soils in industrial regions and along the main transport lines such as the railroad Sofia - Thessaloniki and first-class road E-79. The damaged areas are around the extraction of raw materials (coal, rock mass, aggregates).

As per the NRSPE, 2014, the soils in the country were in a satisfactory ecological condition (in the period 2005-2012) in terms of nutrients (organic matter and pollution with heavy metals), metalloids and persistent organic pollutants (PAHs, PCBs, and organochlorine pesticides). PCBs were below the limit of detection, 98.9% of PAHs were below the MRL.

There is a trend of limiting water erosion In 2007-2012 in terms of the size of distribution and average annual soil loss. In 2012, there was almost no change in the average intensity of water erosion of agricultural land, which is 7.26 t / ha. The annual estimate of the erosion was 53.8 million tons, which is measured by degree and intensity. The average intensity of water erosion of agricultural land varies depending on land use: 6.25 t / ha/year at pastures; 6.77 t / ha/year in the fields; 20.40 t / ha/year for perennials and - 7.24 t / ha/year in places occupied by other crops.

Soil losses from wind erosion are maintained, but low-risk areas are reduced at the expense of those with moderate or higher risk.

1.3.3. Turkey

In 2013, Turkey's agricultural land covered 38,428,000 hectares, half of which were permanent meadows and pastures.

In Turkey, organic farming increased from 203,811 hectares in 2005 to 769,014 hectares in 2013.

In particular, for Edirne and Kırklareli, there has been a downward trend in total arable land over the last four years. Data on organic crops at a regional level are lacking.

The forestry sector in Turkey amounts to over 21 million hectares of forests, 52% of which are productive (according to data from 2010). Each year for the period 2008-2011, about 40 hectares were afforested throughout Turkey, including the provinces of Edirne and Kırklareli.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Turkey is one of the countries with a high degree of erosion due to its topographic structure, climate, use of inappropriate agricultural methods, overgrazing and deforestation, and most lands are susceptible to erosion. Besides, the sloping terrain complicates agricultural processes and facilitates erosion, which is also a severe problem for Turkey's lands. Rapid population growth and industrialization increase migration from rural to urban areas and often result in building settlements on land that was previously productive agricultural land in some regions. The small farmland plots can force farmers to use infertile land (meadows, pastures, forests) for agricultural production. Investments in tourism that are not environmentally friendly can lead to irreversible damage to coastal and forest areas. Human activity, which harms the wetlands, leads to the degradation of ecosystems.

2. Main environmental problems in the cross-border region

Ø Deforestation and erosion

The forests around us are being cut down en masse. Besides, they are destroyed by acid rain due to human activities that cause pollution and various diseases, and invasive animal breeds. **Deforestation is a real threat to the environment.** Trees are being cut down too fast for the earth to regenerate new forests all over the world.

Deforestation has severe consequences such as **floods and soil erosion**. The trees' roots make holes in the ground so that when it rains, the water can sink inside before being absorbed by the soil. These cavities also allow air and water to reach the roots of the plants. When the trees are removed with heavy machinery, the soil is pressed down, and the holes are removed. Because all plants and trees need this water and air to reach the roots, conditions become unfavorable for new germination.

Because the soil can no longer absorb water when it rains, water remains at the top, leading to flooding. Moving water can also completely wash away the top layer of soil. This is called soil erosion. Without the top layer of soil, which is full of nutrients, plants cannot feed and develop.

Amidst the soil issues, **erosion is the major problem for the region**, as vast areas in Kirklareli are significantly affected. The same situation is observed for surface waters, whose main cause of water pollution is the lack of sewerage systems in most small municipalities. The groundwater is mostly polluted with phosphates or nitrates.

Ø Drought

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

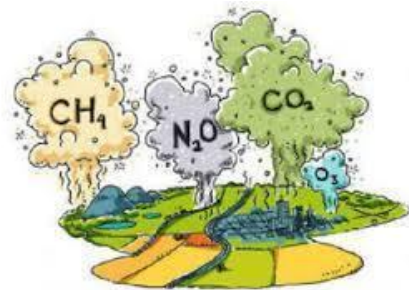
Forests help rainfalls - the more trees there are, the more water is absorbed into the clouds, and the more rains fall. If the forests disappear, there will be less rain due to drier conditions, which will eventually lead to drought. Once this happens, the damage will be irreversible, and the soil will become so dry and hard that plants or trees will not be able to be rooted in it.

Ø Extinction of species

Another harmful result of deforestation is the extinction of animal and plant species. They are disappearing because their natural cycles - that of life and the environment - are disrupted, and the species are unable to adapt to change. They lose their primary habitat when forests are cut down - wildlife loses their homes, food sources, and place in life cycle. It is estimated that about 150-200 species from around the world are disappearing every day!

Ø Pollution from industry, agriculture, and other sources

To some extent, all protected areas are subject to or are at risk of pollution. The impact is most significant in places that are close to industrial sites. Pollution from agriculture is most often diffuse without an identified source, but it is long-term and causes an ongoing deterioration of the environment.

**Ø Greenhouse gases and acid rains**

The Earth's atmosphere contains several greenhouse gases that trap heat from the sun inside the atmosphere. Some of them contain carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, and steam. We need these gases in small amounts, but at high levels, they can be harmful. Forests help absorb these large amounts of CO₂ from the air through photosynthesis. But due to various practices, such as burning fossil fuels, more CO₂ is produced than trees



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

can absorb. Deforestation further complicates this process, leaving excess and harmful CO₂ trapped in the atmosphere.

When greenhouse gases accumulate, more of the sun's heat is trapped in the atmosphere, leading to climate change and disrupt the delicate balance of the Earth's ecosystems. Atmospheric pollution can also lead to acid rain when the gases mix with water in the clouds. Those rainfalls can damage trees and the ecosystem as a whole.

Ø Poaching and disturbance of avifauna and other animal groups

Unfortunately, poaching is still widely spread, despite efforts to control it. Protected areas are in many cases attractive not only for biodiversity but also for practitioners of illegal hunting and fishing.

3. Environmental issues investigated within the project framework

3.1. Analysis of the results of the project activities implemented so far

The Plan for joint management of protected areas in the common cross-border region (the "Plan") was developed in the implementation of Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills.” It is an inseparable and vital component of the whole complex of interconnected and interdependent activities, structuring a solid foundation towards the formation of environmental awareness of the residents in the cross-border region and is grounded on the importance of nature and the environment for humankind’s wellbeing.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

3.1.1. Analytical project activities, forming a solid database of quality information of essential importance in the context of the Plan

3.1.1.1. Needs assessment and awareness survey on environmental protection in the region (Bulgaria)

A survey was conducted among the population in the district of Yambol, including local schools. For this purpose, 500 questionnaires were distributed among residents of 50 towns and villages in Yambol district.

The main conclusions drawn from this study can be defined as follows:

- ♣ Respondents' self-assessment of their general awareness of the environmental policy at national and local level is rather low - less than half are identified as informed to some extent, and only 3% think that they are well informed, also about ¼ state that they are not informed about the topic at all.
- ♣ Respondents find it challenging to assess how the environmental control authorities and local authorities perform their functions and their contribution to the state of the environment.
- ♣ The respondents firmly believe that cleanliness lies not only with the institutions but mainly with citizens (86%). Awareness of this fact can be considered a good prerequisite for launching a campaign and enhancing awareness in this direction, raising awareness and achieving a positive change in residents' behavior.
- ♣ Awareness of various aspects of waste generation, collection, transport, storage, and treatment is generally low. Maximum 1/5 of the respondents are informed about where to submit/ legally dispose of a particular type of waste. This information is practically lacking for the electronic and electrical equipment which grow in number in every household.
- ♣ In the respondents' territory of residence, there are almost no practices of separate waste collection - 92% do not collect separately.

3.1.1.2. Study for the prevention of illegal dumping and its impact on the development of business and commercial life (Turkey)



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

In the framework of the project, the Turkish partner - **Commodity Exchange Kirkclareli**, surveyed 500 people from 50 villages in Kirkclareli district and subsequently prepared an analytical report, taking into account the needs and the environmental awareness in rural areas.

According to the data from this study, the residents of the region, in general, do not see significant problems in terms of waste management and environmental protection in the areas they reside, which is mainly because, in contrast to the surrounding regions, the industry here is poorly developed. The waste and rubbish created by agricultural activities are processed locally. The creation of the necessary networks and trash recycling will positively contribute to the organized disposal of the waste generated within the villages' borders and other municipality centers and industrial cities.

The key findings identified in the study which serve as a basis for this plan's preparation are the following:

There is a lack of sufficient information about the need and the process of separate waste disposal, which is crucial for their subsequent recycling. Still, there is also a positive attitude towards the need for training and an increase in awareness. Here, the answers to the question "Sorting garbage before disposal," to which 90% of the respondents marked "NO," make a strong impression.

It is essential to inform the community to recycle animal waste or use it for other purposes. In the villages, where the rural population has a significant share, the utilization of agricultural and household waste will create a significant economic profit. There is potential for active cooperation with the local communities on illegal dumping.



In the context of this Joint Plan, the analysis of the activities results shows the apparent need to raise residents' environmental awareness in both border regions, most specifically on the separate waste disposal as an essential prerequisite for sustainable ecological development, including in the protected areas of the region.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

3.1.2. Project activities directly related to the cleaning of the environment and the improvement of living conditions in the region, and the formation of environmental awareness

In addition to the activities mentioned in the previous subsection, carried out independently, given their crucial importance as a source of an analytical database, in the context of the elaboration of the present strategic document, within the framework of the project, a number of related and complementary activities focused on environmental protection are carried out, incl. mapping of illegal landfills; cleaning and afforestation campaign; children's manual "Thinking in green"; web-based platform; study "Best practices for the prevention of illegal dumping and their impact on business development." This Plan builds on their implementation and also is a strategic tool, which, based on their results and many experts' analyzes and studies in the context of specific environmental issues, aims to unite all key factors and problems, identified in the project by formulating a long-term vision and set strategic goals and actions, structured in a purposeful, concrete and effective plan for the management of the environment and natural resources, aiming to lead to a qualitative change in individual, collective and institutional behavior towards environmental protection, joint efforts, active and focused action towards a greener and cleaner future.



3.2. State of the waste system in the cross-border region

3.2.1. Bulgaria

According to the report - a review of the results of waste management in the EU Member States, published by the European Union in 2012, Bulgaria is placed in the group of countries with the most significant gaps in waste management implementation.

Meanwhile, public awareness of environmental considerations concerning waste is not sufficient. Therefore, one of the priorities of the **National Waste Management Plan (2014-2020)** is related to measures to improve citizens' awareness in all areas of waste



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

management through various campaigns. One of the Plan's goals is **Goal 4: Mobilising the community as a key factor in implementing the waste management hierarchy.**

Bulgaria is in the group of countries with the most significant gaps in the implementation of waste management. Meanwhile, public awareness of environmental considerations concerning waste is not good enough.

As for the target border district of Yambol, there are 4 landfills on its territory, which serve 72.2% of the population. There is a lag behind the average data for the Southeast region - 92.5%. The total volume of collected municipal waste is 39,726 tons, corresponding to 8.2% of the total volume of waste in the area. The collected waste per person in the district is 379 kg on average.

The waste collection system works relatively well in the cities of the district. Still, it does not function effectively in most rural areas, leading to unregulated landfills and damage to the environment. The transition to municipal waste treatment in regional landfills will reduce the number of functioning landfills.

Improving the waste collection system and introducing a more efficient waste management system is an important task in the area, as well as the support for measures to inform the public about the risks of improper waste treatment.

The aim is to reduce the harmful effects of waste on human health and the environment and at the same time to move to their reuse, which will reduce the use of primary natural resources.

3.2.2. Turkey

Waste generation and management are recognized as a priority for Turkey and educational policies are being developed to overcome existing barriers. The vast majority of solid waste in the country is still not disposed of as per the law requirements. In addition, the waste management system is a stress point for Turkey as an EU candidate country.

The generation of solid waste needs to be reduced. Besides, households should be informed about the separation of waste at the source. The existence of many local administrative units in the same region requires mandatory cooperation and coordination in solid waste services and other infrastructure services.

Statistical Survey on Municipal Waste conducted in all municipalities in 2012 revealed that waste services were provided in 2,894 out of 2,950 municipalities. The amount of waste



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

collected by the municipalities providing such services is 14.6 million tons in summer and 11.2 million tons in winter, or 25.8 million tons for the whole year.

Of the 25.8 million tons of waste collected by municipalities providing waste collection services, 59.9% are landfilled in controlled landfills, 37.8% are landfilled in municipal landfills, 0.6% are processed in installations for composting, and 1.7% were disposed of in other ways.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu**V. OVERVIEW OF GOOD PRACTICES (COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS)****1. Reduction of environmental pollution****GOOD PRACTICES FROM BULGARIA****Project: "Design and construction of anaerobic plants for separately collected biodegradable waste disposal"**

Beneficiaries are the Regional Waste Management Joint Venture, which includes the municipalities of Burgas, Aytos, Kameno, Karnobat, Nessebar, Pomorie, Ruen, Sredets, and Sungurlare.

The project aims to reduce the amount of landfilled municipal waste by providing additional capacity for separate collection and recycling of the biodegradable waste in the municipalities of Burgas, Nessebar, and Pomorie. Implementing these projects allows a more modern and environmentally friendly way to turn waste into a resource.

"Campaign for reporting and introducing the quantities of separately collected and delivered by the citizens waste."

In 2018 the Municipality of Burgas and the Municipal Enterprise "Eco Clean" launched the "Campaign for reporting and introducing the quantities of separately collected and delivered by the citizens waste" in the designated 19 mobile centers. The initiative started in the period 28.04.2018 - 31.12.2018, and as a result, 106 tons of waste were collected, divided into 36 main groups. Campaign participants receive various prizes and incentives - for example, 10 liters of packaged compost, shopping vouchers, and other prizes.

Burgas' Municipality provides a widely promoted service for free transportation of up to 3 cubic meters of waste from home repairs. Thus, construction waste is collected separately, allowing easy removal of valuable materials without damaging the equipment and causing unregulated pollution.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

A business initiative - NEW LIFE FOR THE OLD FURNITURE

The campaign was launched in Burgas - a new life for used wood material, by collecting, sorting, treating, and recycling wood waste. As part of its strategy for responsible and environmentally friendly development and as an element of the circular economy, Kronospan has launched an initiative to process wood waste from packaging, households, construction, and industry. The obtained raw materials will be used to produce chipboards, i.e., the wood life cycle will be extended as much as possible.

For this purpose, in different parts of the city, there are specialized containers provided by Kronospan, where old packaging, old furniture, paneling, windows without glass, and all kinds of wooden products, mattresses, and upholstered furniture can be disposed of. According to analyzes, one ton of recycled wood waste can save eight to ten trees.

Cleaning Campaign

National campaign "Let's clean Bulgaria together"



The campaign "Let's clean Bulgaria together" was initiated in 2012 by bTV Media Group. Today, the campaign is the largest volunteer initiative in Bulgaria, which aims to build public awareness of environmental protection issues and make Bulgaria cleaner and more beautiful in the long run.

The emblematic campaign ranks Bulgaria among the leading countries with the best volunteer practices in environmental care

globally.

Celebrities from the media, athletes, actors, and other public figures are ambassadors of the campaign. Burgas District Administration has been the coordinator of the "Let's Clean Bulgaria" campaign since the initiative's very beginning. Over the years, a streamlined cleaning organization has been established in each municipality.

2. International initiatives for environmental education

Network of eco-schools in Bulgaria /www.ecoschools.global/how-does-it-work/Eco-schools

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

“Eco-schools” is an international program initiated and managed by non-governmental organizations, members of the Foundation for Environmental Education. The program was launched in 1994 in response to the challenge of uniting young people's efforts to solve environmental problems and sustainable

development. The program proposes implementing an integrated system for schools' ecological management based on the ISO 14001 / EMAS approach. It encourages teachers' and students' participation in practical activities, leading to a reduction of the negative environmental impact, water and energy consumption. The realized savings significantly alleviate the maintenance of schools and municipal budgets.

GOOD PRACTICES FROM TURKEY**DEMIRKY REGION****Good business practices****SELEDA FERTILIZER / Website: <http://seleda.com.tr/>**

This is the largest integrated installation for biogas fertilizers in Europe, with an area of 200,000 m². Plant waste is a source of electricity, animal waste is a heat source, and industrial organic waste can be used as a fertilizer. All waste entering the facility is treated and taken to the reactors. After a 30-day decomposition process and a 21-day composting process, the final product obtained after a 51-day cycle is transferred to the packaging plant. The biogas cogeneration plant produces electricity. In this process, 100% of the nitrogen is regenerated and processed into a product.

Zero Waste Project

Contractor: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

Website: <https://sifiratik.gov.tr/>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



"Zero Waste" is an integrated approach to waste prevention, which includes more efficient use of resources, reduction of the amount of generated waste, creation of an effective system for waste collection and recycling. At the heart of the project are the principles for sustainable development and control of waste and the transition to zero waste aiming at a cleaner and greener world. Participation in the project is based on volunteering. NGOs, the private sector, and all institutions are invited to participate in training and awareness-raising activities. Numerous events are organized: information training for employees and the public, for all students, incl. preschools; competitions, summer camps, and awareness-raising activities.

GOOD PRACTICES FROM ROMANIA

National Cleaning Day (Make it Romania!) <https://letsdoitromania.ro>

Volunteer campaign to collect waste from public places on a specific day. The program is implemented throughout the country from 2009 to 2017, and for this period, 25,000 tons of waste were collected (plastic, glass, household and textile waste, metal). Of these, recycled materials increased from 17% to 45% in 2017.



**LET'S DO IT,
ROMANIA!**

In the campaign participated more than 1,800,000 volunteers, and partnerships with 400 companies were established.

Since 2016, a platform, "Let's do it, Romania!" is activated, through which you can signal for areas with illegal wastes either in the city or in nature through a mobile application, which is free in the App Store and Google Play. The signals are received by the authorities. So far, 8,200 volunteers have downloaded the app, leading to the cleaning of more than 400 waste areas. The main partner of the campaign - Kaufland Romania, supports the organization of the 2010 campaign

SIGUREC /<http://sigurec.ro>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



SIGUREC

SIGUREC is a large-scale initiative implemented in Romania following a formal agreement between private companies - Green Group Holding, the Association of Large Retailers in Romania (AMRCR), Ecopaper SA, Romcarbon SA and public authorities - the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

SIGUREC is an intelligent and environmentally friendly, easy-to-use recycling alternative – a system always close to home and providing real and tangible benefits.

Compared to traditional waste collection systems, SIG-UREC smart devices have a number of significant advantages:

1. Most types of waste are collected, whether they are plastic packaging (including bags and food foils), paper, aluminum cans, glass, batteries, light bulbs, neons, waste oils, etc. If thrown in the basket, the waste will certainly be "processed"!
2. The devices are located in the premises and car parks of large and easily accessible commercial buildings such as Co ra and Carrefour. In this way, a shopping trip can become an opportunity to get rid of household waste! In some cities, there is also a service for residents, providing a pickup to the home.
3. The devices are easy to use, fully automated. Once the waste is placed in the machine, it is sorted, counted, and weighed automatically.
4. Prizes are also offered depending on the type of waste and their quantity. The prizes are granted in the form of discounts for shopping in the partner stores.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

3. Good practices in the Natura 2000 network

Cross-border cooperation



The project "The unique nature of Strandja - potential for sustainable tourism" - TUNS was developed and implemented by

the Verdiko Youth Association (www.verdiko.org) Tsarevo,

Bulgaria, in cooperation with the Thracian Tourist Association - Kırklareli, Republic of Turkey. The project is funded under the IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey 2007-2013 - IPA Cross-Border Program CCI Number 2007CB16IPO008-3 (third call for proposals).

The objectives of the project are to promote the opportunities for the development of sustainable tourism in Strandzha Mountain, related to wild flora and fauna, as well as interesting natural landmarks, opportunities for hiking and biking; exchange of good practices between businesses, institutions, and the non-governmental organizations from the cross-border region to implement innovative solutions for sustainable tourism.

Within the round table "Factors for sustainable tourism development in Strandzha," the potential of the longoz forests in Ineada National Park was presented. Special attention to the environmental threats to this part of Strandzha was paid, namely the pollution of the lakes' tributaries with household wastewater, the extraction of aggregates, and the projects for developing the energy sector in the region.

Concerning forest resources **poaching**, it has been identified as a major threat because of which deer and roe deer are **endangered species in the Turkish part of Strandzha**.





Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Project "Through prevention to preserve the natural beauty of the Rhodope Mountains."

Contractor: District Administration - Smolyan, Partners: Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Greece)

The project aims to protect biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources in the cross-border region Smolyan - Xanthi by improving communication and interaction between responsible institutions in the event of natural disasters.

A **risk assessment and early warning system for forest fires has been** set up to help protect the environment from natural and man-made natural disasters. Rules for joint management and exchange of experience in forest fire prevention have been developed. Coordination between institutions in locating, limiting, and extinguishing forest fires has been improved. The ecological culture of the population and visitors in terms of fire safety has been increased.

Restoration of the Weser River

Planning and integrated management of NATURA 2000 sites in Germany with the support of the ERDF

Contractor: Department of Nature and Water Protection at the Senator for the Environment, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Germany.

Partners: a working group formed by representatives of the relevant authorities of Bremen and Lower Saxony, as well as various organizations and institutions in the field of shipping, navigation, environmental protection, agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

The project has three main conservation objectives: First, to maintain the ecological dynamics typical of estuarine habitats. Second, the Weser River should continue to serve as a lamprey migration corridor, as well as a spawning area for the Mediterranean finch (*Alosa fallax*). Third, preserve the vital feeding and breeding areas for birds and fish in the Waden area and along the coast. An integrated ecosystem management plan of the Weser River's transboundary area has been developed to improve the balance between natural processes and different human activities. The plan's main benefits are better management of the estuary and the included NATURA 2000 areas, better involvement of stakeholders and understanding of conservation objectives, and development of an



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

interdisciplinary planning process. As a result, the plan is better accepted and receives broader political support at all levels, enabling it to attract national funding for its implementation.

Access to Aran

Conservation and sustainable recreational use of the island of Aran’s habitats and landscapes

Contractor: Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in partnership with Arran Access Trust

Partners: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage Fund, North Ayrshire Council, Argyll and Islands Enterprise, Forest Enterprise, Historic Scotland.

The project aims to expand the funding base for NATURA 2000 and create an opportunity for different joint working initiatives to protect the area. The project provides start-up capital for the sustainable participation of local stakeholders in managing the NATURA 2000 protected area and the provision of revenues from tourism activities, including management funds.

In order to preserve this scenic area with beautiful natural heritage, responsible visitor behavior is encouraged: a system of walking eco-trails has been set up to accommodate 300,000 tourists a year, and information materials have been prepared to raise public awareness.

4. Good practices for improving civic participation in the processes of formulation, implementation, and monitoring of national policies regarding the management of NATURA 2000 in Bulgaria

4.1. Practices from Italy

An example of established good practice in managing the Natura 2000 network comes from the Italian alpine regions where a network of reserves (NoRs) including 2000 Natura sites. The focus of their management is the socio-economic development of the region, with a bottom-up approach.¹ This management approach is based on the active

¹ This approach allows all participants in the process to become part of the planning and management process, taking into account their views in decision-making by senior management.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

participation of local stakeholders, in which the government approves a program/document after its coordination with the residents. In addition, stakeholders are involved in the planning and implementation of activities and initiatives for nature conservation or the creation/restoration of trails, environmental education, the organization of exhibitions, and local events.

In Italy, each region / autonomous province has an individual priority framework for Natura 2000 activities. The document considers the priorities for protection and management of the Natura 2000 network and identifies possible sources of European funding (EAFRD, ESF, ERDF, FEP, LIFE).

4.2. Practices from the Netherlands

According to the established regulatory requirements in the Netherlands, a management plan must be prepared for each protected area within three years after its designation. Three ministries and 12 provinces are involved in the development of the protected areas management plans. The plans could vary depending on the ownership, i.e., in areas owned or managed by the state, management plans are determined by the state. In contrast, if the owner is different from the state, the plans are developed at the municipality level. They are developed according to guidelines established by the Ministry of Environment. Before the plans' approval, they are subject to a mandatory public discussion led by an independent body. The consultations involve scientists, landowners, experts, and other stakeholders. Their adoption takes place in the region in which the respective ecological zone falls. Once the management plans are approved, they are published on the relevant ministry responsible for the specific protected area websites. In some protected areas with approved management plans, stakeholders monitor the plan's implementation annually.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

4.3. Practices from France

According to the French Environmental Code for each land site of The Natura 2000, Steering Committee, together with local stakeholders, develop "Document of Objectives" (DOCOB). One of the most successful methods of involving the communities in the planning process in some parts of France is the dialogue between the various stakeholders, both institutional and local, to discuss and propose constructive solutions concerning the site's management. The success of the method is achieved by effective and constant communication with the interested parties.

Two types of communication have been identified:

- Internal communication, in which stakeholders actively participate in preparing the Natura 2000 Management Plan through special coordination. This type of communication aims to ensure that the content of the Management Plan is understood, accepted, and supported by local communities.
- External communication targeting a broader audience, including representatives of institutions, territorial leaders, and experts. The aim is to encourage a wider audience's participation in the coordination process and influence the participants' attitude towards the management of Natura 2000 sites.

Applying the "Document of Objectives," each site's management can be entrusted to farmers, foresters, hunters, fishermen, landowners, associations, consumers, and experts voluntarily or contractually by signing five-year contracts and Natura 2000 charters.

4.4. Practices from Spain

Before developing management plans, each province conducts a preliminary public consultation of stakeholders through a dedicated web portal of the competent administration leading the process where citizens can express their views. During the development of the management plans, regular information meetings are held with the local communities to present the draft of the discussed document, schedule, and community participation scheme. Ready-made management plans are consulted with the general public. The received comments and suggestions are considered in the finalization of the document. Once the management plans are approved, they are published in official journals.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

The environmental authorities are responsible for the implementation of the management plans.

Other good practices that can be applied in the country are:

- ❖ regular monitoring of the implementation of the measures set in the management plans;
- ❖ delegation of powers to the NGO sector for the acceleration of the implementation of Natura 2000;
- ❖ attracting volunteers and experts from non-governmental organizations to monitor Natura 2000 sites.

5. Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills" as an example of good practice



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills" is an example of good practice in the field of environmental protection. It is a foundation for the development of this Joint Plan within which a number of activities have been and are being implemented, aimed **at providing**

benefits for the communities towards a greener and cleaner future, including Needs assessment and environmental awareness in the region; Mapping of illegal landfills; Campaigns (one in Bulgaria and one in Turkey) for cleaning and afforestation of identified landfills; Creating a Children's Handbook "Thinking Green"; Development of Web-based platform; Study "Best practices for the prevention of illegal dumping and their impact on business development"; Organizing eco seminars in Kirklareli.

All these activities, especially the cleaning of illegal landfills and the prevention of new ones, will directly affect flood protection (polluted rivers - heavy rains - overflow). The developed map (mapping) of illegal landfills will present a more objective picture of what is happening, and through the web platform, citizens will have the opportunity to actively participate in the protection of their city/region more efficiently and conveniently.

Suppose this trend is maintained over time by organizing joint regular campaigns for clearing and afforestation of deforested areas and activities aimed at protecting the environment, including the formation of environmental awareness, especially among young people, this will be a significant step towards achieving a sizable change in the



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

individual, collective and institutional behavior towards nature conservation, responsible and economical use of resources and preservation of valuable habitats and species.

VI. STRATEGIC PART. JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Concept - short-term and long-term vision for enhanced protection of natural resources



Nowadays, maintaining adequately functioning ecosystems that support economic and social sustainable development becomes increasingly important. The main goals of the Plan are related to the achievement of harmonious, balanced, and sustainable development of the protected areas in the cross-border region, a prerequisite for the preservation of biological diversity, improvement of the quality of the environment, and resp. the quality of life of the local population.

The cross-border planning process seeks a balance between the various aspects of development (environmental, territorial, economic, and social) and between the diverse communities, institutions, and social groups. The joint management plan aims to become one of the main tools for protection and conservation of available natural resources and enhancement of the environmental

This strategy is based on the concept of visual tracing to achieve a future vision using a scheme of strategic objectives that relate to the priorities of the strategic documents at local, national, regional and European levels in the field of environmental conservation and the protected areas. The strategic objectives should be based on the development of the main factors for the sustainability of the joint forms of environmental protection and in particular of the protected areas in the two regions.

VISION - "For a better future in the cross-border region": sustainable development of protected areas, through conservation and protection of valuable natural capital and biodiversity, in close connection with economic growth and social well-being and strengthening the intrinsic relationship of the communities with their natural surrounding.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

The vision formulated in this way reflects the concept for developing the cross-border region, considering the available natural potential and taking into account the local population's interests. This can be achieved by formulating adequate goals and undertaking necessary activities and measures to preserve and improve the environment focus on the protected areas in the region.

2. SWOT analysis

The definition of the vision, goals, and priorities in the Plan is based on the performed analysis of the environmental state in the Yambol and Kırklareli districts and highlighted specific features illustrated in the SWOT analysis. They are the basis for assessing the strengths and weaknesses at the present moment and the opportunities and threats for future development, which are taken into account to formulate strategic goals and measures of joint environmental management and particularly protected areas management.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
YAMBOL DISTRICT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ natural environment preserved in relatively good condition ♣ Presence of protected areas and zones, rich biodiversity, unique and valuable ecosystems, and heritage ♣ Legal framework and regulations, harmonized with EU legislation ♣ Availability of strategic and program documents at the national level in the field of the environment ♣ Lack of significant industries polluting the environment ♣ A positive attitude of local authorities towards foreign investments ♣ Existence of a Regional Waste Management System - Yambol region, which disposes of waste from five municipalities - Yambol, Sliven, Nova Zagora, Tundzha, and Straldzha, built under the project "Construction of a regional waste management system in the region of Yambol - First Phase," implemented under OP "Environment 2007-2013" and forthcoming for the second phase of the project with the construction of composting and separating installations to reduce the total volume of wastes in the landfills, their reuse, and recycling, as well as extraction of valuable raw materials from mixed household waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Local environmental pollution, incl. groundwater pollution with phosphates and nitrates ♣ Deteriorated ecological status of water resources in the district ♣ Lack or insufficient infrastructure for wastewater collection and treatment ♣ The severity of natural disasters caused by a combination of several hazards, such as droughts, extreme temperatures, forest fires, and floods ♣ Natural vulnerability of species and habitats (Successions, inter-species competition, isolation, etc.) ♣ Ineffective cooperation in the management of natural resources and insufficient coordination for environmental protection; Protected areas are not sufficiently included in the structure of the region ♣ Unsatisfactory level of information provision for waste management processes ♣ Poaching ♣ Harmful practices in farming, agriculture, forestry, and hunting, including the use of chemicals and other hazardous substances ♣ Lack of targeted measures and incentives to contribute to waste prevention. Existence of illegal landfills ♣ Lack of community awareness about the importance of environmental protection for the quality of life; lack of information about the protected areas and zones in the region and how to conserve them



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Low energy efficiency and high dependence on fossil fuels. The trend of increasing the amount of solid fuels for domestic heating continues ♣ The existing practice of burning stubble ♣ Lack of sufficient financial resources in the field of environmental protection and in particular in protected areas ♣ Investors are hardly aware or underestimate the requirements of legislation in the field of environmental protection of biodiversity ♣ Adverse demographic trends: reduction of the population of the district, aging of the population, especially in the rural areas, and depopulation of the villages;
KURKLARELI DISTRICT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Favorable natural conditions ♣ Exceptional plant and animal diversity and significant water resources in forest areas ♣ Rich and healthy forest ecosystems, availability of fertile lands ♣ Strandzha Nature Reserve is located in the area ♣ Qualified staff in the forest administration ♣ Some forest areas are included in the nature conservation network - reserves, protected areas, Kasatura, Saka ♣ Availability of universities and research institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Lack of education on nature conservation ♣ Lack of awareness of opportunities for conservation in the development process ♣ Lack of participation in regional planning ♣ Improper use and destruction of arable land ♣ Lack of re-planting activities in the endangered territories ♣ Local environmental pollution, incl. groundwater pollution with phosphates and nitrates ♣ The severity of natural disasters caused by a combination of several hazards, such as droughts, extreme temperatures, forest fires, and floods ♣ Lack of sewerage systems in most of the smaller municipalities ♣ Erosion, landscape disturbances, habitat damage ♣ Poaching ♣ Low energy efficiency and high dependence on fossil fuels



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
YAMBOL DISTRICT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ effective use of EU funds in the environmental sector ♣ versatile and sustainable use of the natural resources potential, landscape, and biodiversity ♣ Improving the skills and knowledge of those working in the sector ♣ Encouraging environmental friendly behavior and habits among the population, especially among adolescents ♣ The positive public attitudes in support of the environmental protection efforts ♣ Existence of good preconditions for cross-border cooperation for environmental protection ♣ Rich biodiversity and availability of protected areas and zones, unique and valuable ecosystems as a prerequisite for the development of cognitive, eco, ornithological, photo, and hobby tourism ♣ Raising public awareness through the introduction of new and interactive forms of environmental education and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Increase in the number of natural disasters (including. floods, droughts, fires, etc.) due to climate change ♣ Reduction of precipitation in summer (lack of water) and rising temperatures ♣ The gradual change of weather conditions ♣ Existing risks of floods and flooding of the terrains near the Tundzha River. ♣ Growing pressure on the environment due to urbanization, intensification of agriculture, transport, etc. ♣ Inefficient water resources management and flood protection ♣ Expansion of illegal logging and poaching ♣ Poor professional adaptability and professional qualification of employees in the sector, inconsistent with the specifics of the industry and the requirements of the labor market ♣ Inefficient use and management of favorable natural conditions and resources to improve the development potential ♣ High costs of implementing environmental legislation to meet the high EU requirements ♣ Harmful human impact on flora and fauna in protected areas
KURKLARELI DISTRICT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The rich diversity of ecosystems and biodiversity ♣ Opportunities to use international EU programs and projects ♣ Exchange of good practices with the EU Member States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Quarries and mines in Strandzha ♣ Excessive logging in certain forest areas as a result of inadequate and insufficient forestry infrastructure ♣ Growing number and frequency of natural disasters (including floods, droughts, fires, etc.) due to climate change



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Multifunctional and sustainable use of the potential of natural resources, landscape, and biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Reduction of summer precipitation (water scarcity) and rising temperatures ♣ The gradual change of climatic conditions ♣ Risk of illegal logging and poaching ♣ Lack of participation in regional planning ♣ Lack of interdepartmental cooperation and resources ♣ Investment threats: mining, Ineada nuclear power plant project
--	--

3. Priorities for management and conservation of protected areas in the cross-border region

- ♣ **Priority 1** - Preservation of good ecological status of the protected areas described in this plan as crucial for the protection of biological diversity
- ♣ **Priority 2** - Sustainable use of resources in protected areas - a prerequisite for improving the quality of life of local communities, their livelihood, and tool towards limiting and adapting to global climate change
- ♣ **Priority 3** - Reducing adverse factors of human interventions that affect protected areas as ecosystems
- ♣ **Priority 4** - Raising public environmental awareness to support the conservation, maintenance, and restoration of protected areas.

4. Defining the goals. Strategic and operational objectives

The Joint Protected Areas Management Plan is a cross-border document that creates a framework for implementing environmental protection policies in general and protected areas in the region in particular. To this end, strategic and operational goals and activities for their achievement have been determined, which frame the short-term and long-term vision for enhanced protection of the natural resources in the target cross-border region.

4.1. Purpose and tasks of the plan

General objective - To provide a basis for the planning and implementation of activities for joint management of protected areas in the cross-border region



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Specific tasks

- ♣ To update the information on the current state of protected areas of priority importance in the cross-border region, including their conservation significance and main characteristics
- ♣ To assess the threats to the protected areas, such as sensitive ecosystems and unique species and habitats
- ♣ To identify good practices in the field of environmental management and protection of natural resources
- ♣ To identify the necessary measures for the conservation of the protected areas, and the funding sources for their implementation

4.2. Strategic and operational goals

The definition of the goals is based on analyzes, characteristics, and assessments in the previous sections of the management plan and on the researched potential of the region, as well as according to the requirements of the European environmental policy and last but not least, in accordance with the Action Plan for Nature, People, and the Economy. The formulation of strategic goals is related to preserving and maintaining protected areas and the environment, in general, in the cross-border region in the long run.

Within the Plan, the following **strategic goals** are defined:

- ❖ **Strategic goal 1:** Conservation and preservation of natural habitats and biological diversity in protected areas in the cross-border region
- ❖ **Strategic goal 2:** Achieving an optimal balance between the ecological function of forests in the cross-border region and their ability to provide long-term material benefits and services and increase their role in ensuring economic growth in the area and sustainable territorial socio-economic development
- ❖ **Strategic goal 3:** Effective management of protected areas included in Natura 2000 and other protected areas in the cross-border region



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

- ❖ **Strategic objective 4:** Building and raising the community's environmental culture and awareness in the cross-border area as a prerequisite for sustainable development of protected territories and the preservation and conservation of the natural resources
- ❖ **Strategic goal 5:** Development of green infrastructure to preserve and restore ecological balance, conserve biodiversity and protect the environment in combination with increasing the economic and social benefits of the natural functions of ecosystems
- ❖ **Strategic objective 6:** Improving the quality of the environment in the cross-border region by creating a cross-border network for joint actions to reduce or prevent the negative consequences of human activity

For the implementation of strategic goals and priorities, **12 operational objectives** are formulated:

- ♣ **Operational objective 1:** Improving the planning and implementation of activities related to the protection of biological and landscape diversity in the transboundary region
- ♣ **Operational objective 2.** Protection and increase of the sustainability of the *longoz* ecosystems. Optimizing the management and administration of *longoz* forests in order to protect and restore them
- ♣ **Operational objective 3.** Conservation of biodiversity to increase the resilience of *longoz* ecosystems. Preservation of game, birds, and fish inhabiting the *longoz* ecosystem and its habitats
- ♣ **Operational objective 4.** Improving the effectiveness of forest fire prevention and combating illegal activities in forests
- ♣ **Operational objective 5.** Increasing the area of woods, timber, and carbon stocks in forest areas in the cross-border region
- ♣ **Operational objective 6.** Maintenance and development of the system for conservation of forest genetic resources in Strandzha Mountain
- ♣ **Operational objective 7.** Effective management of Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

- ♣ **Operational objective 8.** Ensuring sustainable planning of activities in protected areas
- ♣ **Operational objective 9.** Effective use of funds from European and international funds and programs
- ♣ **Operational objective 10.** Promotion of protected areas in the cross-border region. Raising environmental culture and awareness of the residents in the cross-border area on the conservation and development of biodiversity and nature
- ♣ **Operational objective 11.** Promoting the developing GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE as a tool for sustainable development of protected areas in the cross-border region
- ♣ **Operational objective 12.** Nature conservation and sustainable management of protected areas in the cross-border region through measures aimed at reducing and/or preventing anthropogenic impact on the environment

5. Action plan

The plan covers the period **2021-2027** and includes the main measures and activities scheduled for execution. The adoption and implementation of the plan aims to achieve an optimal balance between the various legislative, institutional, economic, and technical measures and the practical implementation of an integrated approach to environmental protection and its components in the cross-border region.



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1: Improving the system for planning and implementation of activities related to the conservation of biological and landscape diversity in the cross-border region Compliance with the Strategic Goals: Strategic Goal 1			
Activity 1. Integration of the goals for protection of the biological and landscape diversity in the planning of the activities and management of the protected territories in the cross-border region	State budgets, European and international programs	2023	Bulgarian institutions: Ministry of Environment and Water / MOEW /; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, Tundzha State Forestry Yambol, Elhovo State Forestry; Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; state enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 2. Development and application of methodologies for systematic collection, assessment, monitoring, and exchange of data on biological diversity in Strandzha Mountain's forests.	State budgets, European programs and projects	2023	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
The monitoring is necessary to observe changes and trends in the state due to specific anthropogenic impacts and to monitor background changes in the environment.			<p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries</p> <p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs</p>
<p>Activity 3. Ensuring adequate administrative capacity and financial resources for management and conservation of protected areas</p> <p>The main sources of funds for these purposes are public - from the national budget, as well as co-financing under various EU financial instruments</p>	State budgets, European programs and projects	2023	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, EAG</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli NGOs from both countries</p> <p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs</p>
Activity 4. Overcoming existing gaps in scientific information on protected areas through targeted surveys and monitoring	State budgets,	2023.	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry,



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
For protected area management purposes, gaps in the information need to be filled, and data on key biotic and abiotic characteristics of ecosystems need to be updated.	European programs and projects		forest owners; state enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOS
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2. Preservation and increase of the sustainability of the long ecosystems. Optimizing the management and administration of longoz forests in order to protect and restore them Compliance with the Strategic Goals: Strategic Goal 1			
Activity 1. Afforestation. Introduction of tree species	State budgets, European and international programs.	2024	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs on both sides
Activity 2. Improving the qualification of the loggers working in the field, the timber export workers, and the logging companies' managers.	State budgets and European and international programs.	2023	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
			district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs on both sides
<p>Activity 3. Salvage logging systems should be aimed at working around all tree species with less than 10% share in the composition and in good physiological condition; maintaining a three-story structure in the plantations to achieve optimal reserves and sustainable protective functions; creating conditions for optimal growth of quality trees; creating conditions for natural regeneration necessary to reach the desired future forest; restriction of felling on large areas, etc.</p> <p>Breeding fellings – the main principle in breeding fellings is the purposeful forestry intervention to achieve the set goals: regulation of the composition for conservation of biodiversity; selection of quality specimens of tree species; creating favorable conditions for growth in height and diameter of the selected stems and their individual cultivation.</p>	State budgets and European and international programs.	2027	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs on both sides</p>
<p>Activity 4. Seed collection from longoz tree species with the best genetic predisposition</p> <p>All valuable plantations, groups, or even single summer oak trees and field elm need to be mapped for this purpose. The priority should be directed</p>	State budgets and European and international programs.	2027	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
to the species with limited and sole participation in the current composition - hornbeam, field maple, forest fruit species, etc.			Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirkclareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs on both sides
<p>Activity 5. Introduction and implementation of measures to combat invasive species</p> <p>*** Invasive (from Latin: <i>invasio</i> - invasion, attack, raid, violence, occupation) for a particular place are those species that are not naturally distributed there but are introduced in one way or another and tend to spread to the point of damaging the local ecosystem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of an inventory of invasive species that change or endanger the ecological characteristics of protected areas in the transboundary region (longoz ecosystems) 	State budgets and European and international programs.	2023	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirkclareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries</p> <p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOS</p>
<p>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. Conservation of biodiversity in order to increase the resilience of longoz ecosystems. Conservation of game, birds, and fish inhabiting the longoz ecosystem and their habitats</p> <p>Compliance with the Strategic Goal: Strategic Goal 1</p>			



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
Activity 1. Improving the capacity and coordination between all stakeholders in the field of hunting for protection, improvement and increase of the populations of game and fish in the cross-border region	State budgets; European and international programs; LIFEprograms	2023	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 2. Conservation of biodiversity ♣ Development of Action Plans for conservation of endangered populations Here we can pay attention to the populations of otters , which is included in the World Red List due to its greatly reduced numbers. (From an economic point of view, the otter is harmful to fish farming. Still, from an ecological point of view, it is a species that has its niche in nature and helps maintain environmental balance. The number of otters decreases due to	State budgets; European and international programs; LIFEprograms	2024	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
water pollution); to the globally endangered corncrake ; the black and white storks , which is of European importance; of an olive tree warbler - world-class significance; particular attention should be paid at the bats , which are represented with 25 species, 13 of which are in the World Red List (Bechstein's bat, long-fingered bat, and Geoffroy's bat, Mediterranean horseshoe bat and lesser horseshoe bat, western barbastelle, etc.).			Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 2. Improvement and increase of game and fish populations for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable development of forest ecosystems The aim is to improve and increase game and fish populations based on institutional, organizational, scientific, and other conditions to ensure the necessary symbiosis between humans, forests, and wildlife, incl. by updating the laws and regulations in hunting; improving capacity and coordination between all stakeholders in the field of hunting; increase and diversification of game and fish resources, including through genetic selection and introduction. Here we can pay attention to deer and roe deer populations in the Turkish part of Strandzha, where due to poaching, they have become endangered species.	State budgets; European and international programs; LIFE programs	2027	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kırklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs on both sides
Activity 3. Control of poaching and the resource use in protected areas	State budgets; European and	2021 - 2027	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<p>The legal framework governing the fight against poaching in both Bulgaria and Turkey is relatively straightforward and detailed. The shortcomings in the fight against poaching are often due more to the insufficient capacity of the responsible institutions, public tolerance, and in some cases - conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Enhanced controls may include more frequent and regular inspections of control bodies at the sites described in this plan and joint inspections with NGOs / civil society organizations.</p>	<p>international programs; LIFE programs</p>		<p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirkclareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities</p>
<p>Activity 4. Spatial and functional connection of protected areas as habitats</p> <p>The function of protected areas to maintain rich biodiversity and their other ecosystem benefits depends on their spatial and functional connection with neighboring areas, incl. forests and lands of primary environmental value. The maintenance and restoration of these connections is stated in the Biodiversity Act and the concept of "Green Infrastructure," which has recently received significant support at the European level.</p> <p>In practice, this includes, for example, the restoration of landscape connectors with ecosystem functions, as well as the restoration of territories in the area, which are important feeding points for birds nesting in the PA.</p>	<p>State budgets; European and international programs; LIFE programs</p>	2027	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirkclareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs on both sides</p>
<p>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 4. Improving the effectiveness of forest fire prevention and combating illegal activities in forests</p>			



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
Compliance with the Strategic Goals: Strategic Goal 2			
Activity 1. Carrying out analysis and evaluation of the results from the implementation of the fire protection measures	State budgets; European and international programs;	2022	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 2. Establishment of a unified system for monitoring, early detection, and notification of forest fires	State budget, Bulgaria; State sectoral budget, the Republic of Turkey; European programs	2025	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs on both sides
Activity 3. Enhancing the capacity and improving the interaction between the institutions for prevention and detection of illegal actions in the forest territories	State budget Bulgaria; State sectoral budget, Republic of Turkey; European programs	2023	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
			owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 4. Increasing the local executive power's monitoring and control over the fire season's agricultural territories' activities.	Own funds of SF, municipalities and other owners of FF; RDP, other European and international programs.	2025	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs on both sides
Activity 5. Development of a program for the prevention, training forest owners and local populations in fire-endangered regions; conducting information campaigns. Development and implementation of training programs for specialized groups and volunteers to prevent and extinguish forest fires.	Own funds of SF municipalities and other owners of FF; RDP,	2025	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
	other European and international programs.		
Activity 6. Creation, improvement, and maintenance of fire infrastructure, water sources, forest roads, etc., to fight fires.	Republican budgets European programs	2027 -	Bulgarian institutions: EAG; RDG-Sliven, Tundzha State Forestry Yambol, Elhovo State Forestry Turkish institutions: RSG Kirklareli and other state institutions
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. Increasing the area of woods, timber and carbon stocks in forest areas in the cross-border region			
Compliance with the Strategic Goal: Strategic Goal 2			
Activity 1. Implementation and upgrading of the measures envisaged in the Third NAPD48 2013-2020 for the sector “Land use, change in land use and forestry” for increasing the forest area by: Assimilation of “non-forested area for afforestation” in forest territories; Afforestation of areas of abandoned agricultural land, bare, eroded and threatened by erosion areas outside forest areas.	Republican budget Bulgaria Republican budget by sectors Republic of Turkey European programs projects	2027	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry,



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
			forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 2. Implementation and upgrading of the measures provided in the Third NPDIK 2013-2020 for the sector "Land use, change in land use and forestry" for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration and maintenance of forest protected zones and implementation of new erosion afforestation - Analysis of the condition and needs for restoration and construction of new forest protection belts - Creation/restoration of forest protection belts 	Republican budget Bulgaria Republican budget by sectors Republic of Turkey European programs	2027	Bulgarian institutions: MOEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGO
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 6. Maintenance and development of the system for conservation of forest genetic resources in Strandzha Mountain Compliance with the Strategic Goals: Strategic Goal 2			
Activity 1. Development of the "ex-situ" system for the preservation of genetic diversity and construction of a system of actions to protect the local gene pool.	State budgets and European programs LIFE	2027.	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
Activity 2. Expansion and maintenance of the forest seed production base	State budgets and European programs LIFE	2027.	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 3. Production of the necessary seeds to form the seed collections of the most valuable tree species for the conservation of forest genetic resources.	State budgets and European programs LIFE	2025.	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 4. Performing genetic assessment of forest seed bases and preservation of the genetic fund.	State budgets and European programs LIFE	2025.	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 7. Effective management of Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas <u>Compliance with the Strategic Goals: Strategic Goal 3</u>			
Activity 1. Development of the network of regional protected areas under the PTA, based on analyzes of the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation activities	State budgets, European and international programs	2026.	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, owners in the woods; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 2. Development of measures to improve the connectivity of protected areas.	State budgets, European and international programs;	2023	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
Activity 3. Improving the staff qualification in the institutions from the protected territories and zones for conservation of biological diversity.	State Municipal budgets, European and international programs.	2023	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs
Activity 4. Research, inventory, and monitoring, as well as conflict management and illegal wildlife trade prevention, which will significantly contribute to decreasing the deterioration of the conservation status of all species and habitats covered by EU environmental legislation.	State Municipal Budgets, European and international programs.	2025	Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kırklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOS
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 8. Ensuring sustainable planning of activities in protected areas Compliance with the Strategic Goals: Strategic Goal 3			
Activity 1. Development and updating of management plans for protected areas and zones of NATURA 2000.	State and municipal budgets	2027	Ministry of Environment and Water / MoEW / Executive Environment Agency (EEA)



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<p>Development and adoption of management plans for protected areas of Natura 2000, according to the Biodiversity Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Management plan of BG0002026 Derventa hills ♣ Management plan of BG0000218 Derventa hills 1 ♣ Management plan BG0000219 Derventski hills 2 ♣ Management plan BG0002066 West Strandzha <p>Currently, most of the protected areas and territories do not have developed management plans, and others need updating. Management plans are extremely important because:</p> <p>the Management Plans for protected areas, according to the BDA, envisage measures aimed at preventing the deterioration of the conditions in the natural habitats of the species, as well as the endangerment and disturbance of the species for the protection of which the respective protected areas have been declared</p> <p>the Management Plans for protection of territories, according to the PTA, contain norms, regimes, conditions, or recommendations for implementation of the activities in the forests, lands, and water areas; infrastructure development and construction; the organization of management and others, ensuring the achievement of the set goals, as well as short-term and long-term action programs related to research and</p>	<p>European programs, incl. Horizon 2020 and LIFEprogram</p>		<p>State bodies and their divisions in the field of their competence, municipalities and their associations, scientific and academic institutes and non-governmental environmental organizations.</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
monitoring of environmental components, maintenance of endangered species, communities and habitats, environmental education and others.			
Activity 2. Support for the construction of the ecological network NATURA 2000 in Turkey, incl. research and identification of potential areas in the Strandzha Mountains, according to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Protection Directive, to be included in Natura 2000; providing expertise for preparation of the necessary documentation for declaring natural territories in the Turkish part of Strandzha; training for the joint data collection on both sides of the border; workshops on the topic with representatives of environmental NGOs, institutions, and citizens; sharing of experience and presentation of good practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of areas in Ineada (areas around Ineada National Park) in the Natura 2000 ecological network: areas with longoz forests, lakes in Ineada 	State budgets "LIFE Nature" of the program "LIFE" International programs	2027	Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kırklareli, District Governments, municipalities, forest owners; State - owned enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs Expert working group from the Bulgarian side
Activity 3. Improvement and development of the mechanisms for public consultations, incl. creation of new forms for effective participation of the non-governmental organizations in the process of planning and implementation of the documents for regional and local sustainable management of protected territories	State and municipal budgets European and international programs.	2023	Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOS
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 9. Effective use of funds from European and international funds and programs			



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
Compliance with the Strategic Goal: Strategic Goal 3			
Activity 1. Building and improving the administrative capacity of the district and municipal administrations and the other potential beneficiaries, incl. the directorates of national parks and the regional environment and water inspectorates; associations, non-governmental organizations, and others for preparation and implementation of projects financed by European and international funds and programs	European and international programs	2023	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirkclareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries</p> <p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOS</p>
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 10. Promotion of protected areas in the cross-border region. Raising environmental culture and awareness of the residents in the cross - border area on biodiversity conservation and environmental protection			
Compliance with the Strategic Goals: Strategic Goal 4			
Activity 1. Implementation of information campaigns as a means to promote the need to preserve protected areas, improve and maintain public awareness of their potential, significance, and value, including ♣ Presence in the electronic media	European and international programs, State and municipal budgets	2023	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Presence in the print media (magazines and newspapers), aimed at the broader audience ♣ Joint seminars / meetings - conferences aimed at establishing the link between civil and environmental protection in the cross-border region and the development of supporting materials. ♣ Joint campaigns to inform and organize various volunteer activities (e.g. clearing of sensitive ecosystems, afforestation, etc.) ♣ Multi-page printed brochures containing information on the environment and biodiversity and the services they offer and the importance of conservation and protection by civic volunteers. <p>Posters with important habitats of plant and animal species marked on them, emphasizing the importance of their protection and conservation by civil volunteers</p>			<p>Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries</p> <p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs</p>
<p>Activity 2. Improving the ecological culture of the local population and visitors, as well as the younger generation in order to promote conservation behavior, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Organizing on the territory of protected areas in the cross-border region - and not only - educational and research programs, such as monitoring of priority species and habitats, organization of school and student study trips and expeditions, inclusion of volunteers in the monitoring programs. 	European and international programs, State and municipal budgets	2023	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Creation and maintenance of a database; Study of little-known organism groups ♣ Development and maintenance of additional signposts and information boards ♣ Educational programs with students' pupils' and local population' participation, related to the conservation of biological diversity. <p>Creation and maintenance of the protected areas' websites with an educational section, providing information about environmental and biodiversity protection programs.</p>			<p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state enterprises, non - state forest owners, NGOs</p>
<p>Activity 3. Encouraging young people's participation as volunteers in the protection and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity in the cross-border region, including measures and actions to motivate and inform volunteers about the conservation tools and ways to improve biodiversity and the natural environment.</p> <p>The volunteer's help is vital because it leads to better preserving and protecting forests and biodiversity. Overall, the contribution of volunteers for nature and biodiversity in the border region, directly or indirectly, will focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ residents' mobilization and awareness ♣ indication of problems ♣ patrols and checks during the high-risk days ♣ providing information 	European and international programs, State and municipal budgets	2023	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kırklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries</p> <p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOS</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ fire protection ♣ guided firefighters and firetrucks in the area of the fire ♣ support of the fire brigades <p>Restoration of burned areas (afforestation, etc.)</p>			
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 11. Promoting the development of GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE as a tool for sustainable development of protected areas in the cross-border region Compliance with the Strategic Goals: Strategic Goal 5			
<p>Activity 1. Promoting the benefits of environmentally friendly infrastructure for ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, contributing to the development of green economic activities, the creation of green jobs, and the generation of sustainable incomes for local people engaged in, for example, organic food and beverage production, green tourism and other activities based on green infrastructure, protection and sustainable management of water resources, contribution to protection and reduction of risks and negative consequences of natural disasters on the territory of protected areas, etc. benefits from the development of green infrastructure.</p> <p>For this purpose, campaigns should be planned and conducted to promote good practices in connection with the implementation of green infrastructure investments in protected areas.</p>	European and international programs, State and municipal budgets	2023.	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kirklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries</p> <p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipabc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<p>Activity 2. Planning, development, and implementation of measures, objectified in joint plans and programs for the promotion of the construction and development of green infrastructure, as well as the implementation of cross-border projects for the development of the green infrastructure network at the European level;</p> <p>♣ Joint plan for promoting the construction and development of green infrastructure in the cross-border region as a tool for sustainable development of protected areas</p>	European and international programs, State and municipal budgets	2027	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kırklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries</p> <p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOS</p>
<p>OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 12. Nature conservation and sustainable management of protected areas in the cross-border region, through measures, to reduce and/or prevent anthropogenic impact on the environment</p> <p>Compliance with the Strategic Goals: Strategic Goal 6</p>			
<p>Activity 1. Reducing the use of pesticides and chemicals in the region's environment</p> <p>Developing appropriate programs and concepts to reduce old pesticides and chemicals in general or in specific areas and initiate the management of hotspots or restrictions on their application by creating buffers or compensating zones.</p>	European and international programs, State and municipal budgets	2023.	<p>Working group for the cross-border region;</p> <p>MoEW, NAFA, MAF and other public bodies; NGOs; Scientific organizations;</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<p>Achieving sustainable use of pesticides, ie. to create a framework for public action, countries in cross-border regions must make effective use of the possibilities of the Pesticides Framework Directive (PFD) and explore various issues related to the current state and use of land and soils in the cross-border region, incl. state and quality of land and soils, risks associated with land and soils, and the conservation and restoration of above-ground and underground ecosystems and biological diversity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Identification of suitable sites; ♣ Identification of sites with old pesticides and other chemical pollutants and preparing plans for environmental restoration and risk management in case of environmental disasters; ♣ Preparation of risk management and intervention plans for neutralization of OPC and restoration of degraded ecosystems; ♣ Ensuring cross-border cooperation in the case of pollution or potential pollution problems ♣ Promoting stakeholder participation, training and the flow of information at a local and regional level, and more targeted use of EU funds and/or pooling existing resources. 			<p>Interested international organizations; Managers and other stakeholders</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<p>Activity 2. Measures to combat illegal dumping. Ensuring appropriate treatment of solid waste</p> <p>Establishment and implementation of integrated waste management systems at national, regional and local levels. It is necessary to establish centers to manage the household and non-hazardous waste and rehabilitation and closure of non-compliant landfills, heavily polluted sites, and unregulated landfills. Activities should also include actions to raise awareness of waste reduction and recycling needs.</p> <p>Example of effective measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ green telephone for signaling to be promoted on the territory of the cross-border region ♣ internet platform for marking of polluted places ♣ warning signs and video surveillance of the areas, usually used for unregulated dumps; ♣ socially beneficial work on cleaning contaminated sites from proven violators; ♣ broad and ongoing promotion on the proper disposal of different types of waste. 	<p>European and international programs, State and municipal budgets</p>	<p>2023.</p>	<p>Working group for the cross-border region;</p> <p>MoEW, NAFA, MAF and other public bodies; NGOs; Scientific organizations; Interested international organizations; Managers and other stakeholders</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<p>Activity 3. Raising awareness on air, soil, and water protection by assessing and promoting the potential of natural resources as an engine of sustainable regional development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ extending the objectives of cross-border projects to the international level; ♣ distinguishing between further priority actions that are (specifically) related to the region and the need to implement them at a regional level; ♣ bringing together different regional leaders, stakeholders, and their networks from different directions; ♣ promoting stakeholder participation, training, and the flow of information at a local and regional level; ♣ pooling of available resources. <p>In addition, the cooperation is related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Raising the general public's awareness by recognizing and promoting the potential of natural resources as engines of sustainable regional development and education of children and adolescents. ♣ Enhancing general awareness and facilitating the exchange of best practices on issues of integrated management of protected areas among decision-makers at all levels and the population of the region 	European and international programs, State and municipal budgets	2023.	<p>Working group for the cross-border region;</p> <p>MoEW, NAFA, MAF and other public bodies; NGOs; Scientific organizations; Interested international organizations; Leaders and other stakeholders</p> <p>This action can be achieved in cooperation with the European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA), while deeper partnerships in the region need to be initiated at municipal and educational level</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Raising awareness and stakeholders’ involvement and assisting the implementation of the EU Strategy for Biodiversity 2020. ♣ Increasing the perception of protected nature as a valuable asset. ♣ Promotion of green and sustainable ecotourism as part of these activities. 			
<p>Activity 4. Upgrading the capacity of local authorities on environmental issues</p> <p>Local authorities are primarily responsible for implementing environmental solutions (such as waste management or issues related to protected areas). Still, they often lack the knowledge and skills to develop projects in the field of environment. The activity includes a set of practical measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Implementation of guidelines to improve the understanding of the key sector of EU environmental legislation ♣ Establishment of guidelines on EU environmental legislation ♣ Establishment of an expert group to support the regions and cities in solving various problems and a network for exchange of good practices. 	European and international programs, State and municipal budgets	2023	<p>Bulgarian institutions: MoEW; RIEW - Stara Zagora; MAF, IAG; RDG-Sliven, SFE "Tundzha" Yambol, SFE Elhovo</p> <p>Turkish institutions: Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey; RDG Kırklareli, as well as district administrations, municipalities, forest owners; State-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs from both countries</p> <p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry, forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs</p>
<p>Activity 5. Identifying a system of measures for climate change adaptation at transboundary level</p>	European and international programs,	2023.	<p>Expert working group of: representatives of state institutions, experts, state forestry,</p>



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

Activities	Sources of funding	Deadline	Responsible institutions
The expected impacts of climate change are drought, changes in rainfall amount and distribution, and to a lesser extent, the temperature change itself. However, there is currently no study on this problematics. It is necessary to research the trends and potential impact of these factors on ecosystems in the transboundary region.	State and municipal budgets		forest owners; state-owned enterprises, non-state forest owners, NGOs

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

VII. POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

1. Opportunities for EU funding within the programming period 2021-2027

1.1. Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF))



In the next programming period, the Structural Funds are again expected to play a vital role in financing a wide range of activities related to biodiversity conservation and the effective management of the Natura 2000 network. These funds have the opportunity to support a number of nature conservation and restoration activities in protected areas, provided that such activities are adequately stated in the relevant national operational programs, which are the mechanisms for managing and allocating the Structural Funds in the protected areas of each EU Member State.

1.2 The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

It is expected that in the new programming period, the program will continue to support activities aimed at sustainable fishing practices, an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, and specific measures in marine Natura. 2000 zones

1.3 Transboundary Operational programs

Cross-border cooperation provides an opportunity to finance the exchange of experience, good practices, improved communication between stakeholders, and cross-border management of shared natural resources. From the point of view of conservation and management of protected areas, cross-border cooperation with Turkey is critical due to the availability of shared natural resources of great ecological importance.

1.4. The program for the environment for the programming period 2021-2027



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

One of the priorities in the program for the environment during the new programming period is planned to be **Priority 3 "Biodiversity"**, in the framework of which are eligible measures to fulfill the country's commitments arising from the European environmental legislation, described in strategic and planning documents at European and national level:

1.4.1. Measures related to the development of the Natura 2000 network

- ♣ Development of territorial plans for management of Natura 2000 protected areas
- ♣ Implementation of a management approach in Natura 2000 protected areas - providing support to the bodies for management of Natura 2000 protected areas;
- ♣ Improving knowledge of species and natural habitats through field research (including mapping, where defined in the NRPD) and determining their conservation status; verification of taxonomic affiliation; identification of the effects of the resettlement of non-indigenous species, etc.;
- ♣ Development of action plans for the species;
- ♣ Capacity building of stakeholders for implementation of conservation measures, incl. those of the NAP and the management plans for the protected areas.

1.4.2. Measures aimed at improving the conservation status of natural habitats and species (including birds, fish, bats, reptiles, vascular plants, as well as types of natural habitats - coastal, rocks, dunes, freshwater, shrubby, etc.), subject to protection in the Natura 2000 network, such as:

- ♣ Improving the conservation status of species and natural habitats by restoring the hydrological regime; clearing the remnants of abandoned anthropogenic infrastructure causing fragmentation; building a connection with the sea; restoration of the natural water regime of the wetlands and maintenance of an appropriate water regime restoration of former nesting grounds of the species; partial restoration of previously dried natural reservoirs; reed management; removal of invasive alien species; actions to limit grazing; the reintroduction of species into potential habitats; placement of electric shepherds; restoration of damaged terrains; purchase of land; power lines safety installations, etc.;
- ♣ Pilot restoration of existing / potential wetland habitats meanders along the Danube and Danube tributaries, etc.

**Project No. CB005.2.12.075 “Revitalization of abandoned landfills”**

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERSwww.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

1.4.3. Measures for protection / restoration of ecosystems and their inherent biological diversity outside Natura 2000 - implementation of measures from the Strategy for Biological Diversity in the Republic of Bulgaria and National Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity and Genetic Resources 2020 - 2024, measures from protected areas management plans and action plans for the species.

1.5. EUprogram LIFE

LIFE is a financial mechanism especially designed to fund specific activities and innovative practices for environmental protection and management. The Commission proposes to increase funding for LIFE, the EU's environment, and climate action program by almost 60% through the new long-term EU budget for 2021-2027. One of the main features of the new LIFE program is:

- ♣ **A stronger focus on nature and biodiversity:** The new LIFE program will support projects that promote best practices in nature and biodiversity, as well as new, special “strategic projects for the conservation of nature” for all Member States in terms of supporting the integration of nature and biodiversity policy objectives into other funding policies and programs, such as agriculture and rural development, ensuring a more coherent approach across sectors;
- ♣ Continued support for the circular economy and climate change mitigation: The new program will continue to support important EU policy objectives such as the transition to a circular economy, the protection and improvement of air and water quality in the EU, the implementation of the policy framework in the EU in the field of energy and climate by 2030 and the implementation of the Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;

2. National sources of funding

2.1. Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities (EMEPA)

One of the three main priorities for financing EMEPA projects is “Limiting the loss of biological diversity and protection of natural ecosystems,” including the protection of rare



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

and endangered species, the development of the national ecological network Natura 2000, and raising public awareness of the role and importance of biodiversity.

2.2. National Trust Eco fund / Green Investment Financing Scheme

Green investments are financed from the proceeds of international trade in prescribed greenhouse gas emission allowances (EEUs). The scheme mainly funds investment projects directly leading to carbon reduction.

2.3. National sources of funding in Turkey

3. Bilateral cooperation programs

EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014

The European Economic Area financial mechanism includes Priority Axis 2 - Biodiversity and Ecosystems, under which conservation projects for the restoration of wetlands can be proposed. The mechanism also comprises an NGO fund for small projects, within which civic and educational initiatives related to biodiversity can find their place.

4. Private investment and payments for ecosystem services

Private investment in the management and conservation of protected areas is still rare. However, they are entirely possible when business interests are combined with measures to maintain environmental features and biodiversity. Such cases are salt pans, fishponds, and rice paddies, whose sustainable economic use is feasible without significant adverse environmental impacts.

VII. CONCLUSION

Nature transcends national borders - this seemingly simple idea underlies this joint management plan of protected areas in the cross-border region, developed entirely in the context of both Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills", as well as the European policy in the field of environment and conservation of protected areas and especially the ecological network NATURA 2000 - one of the most advanced, large-scale, and flexible protection systems of nature in the world, promoting the idea that the



Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu

successful conservation of natural resources in Europe is possible only when thinking and acting at European level.

This document, which has the ambition to be a strategic document with a practical focus, is in full unison with the three areas of major importance outlined in the Action Plan for Nature, People, and the Economy - Nature, People, and the Economy, aiming at contributing to the achievement of a real change in the target cross-border region with the priority of joint action to preserve nature for present and future generations and maintain its ability to deliver the goods and services we all need and whose loss would be irreversible.

A key prerequisite for the success of this plan and the active participation and involvement of all stakeholders in the target cross-border region - from owners and users of land and forests, entrepreneurs, investors, traders, hunters, and fishermen operating or owning property in protected areas to public and private institutions, which are one of the sustainability factors, providing the necessary institutional support for the successful management of protected areas and the opportunity for more effective cooperation between stakeholders.

One of the ambitious goals of this document is to contribute to laying a solid foundation for building links between nature, people, and the economy and to prove that **with joint efforts and constant and intentional care, we can give our planet a breath of fresh air to adapt and to continue to be a source of well-being for our children.**





Project No. CB005.2.12.075 "Revitalization of abandoned landfills"

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Bulgaria - Turkey.