



3rd NEWSLETTER OF 4GreenInn project

State of the art research of the protected zones in the partner countries' regions

The study of protected natural areas, which is one of the objectives of the project - and part of the future web platform Black Sea Ecopedia was concluded in May 2014. The study includes detailed information on the current status of protected natural areas in the three regions of the project. They were mapped and best practices of protected natural areas management were collected and summarized.

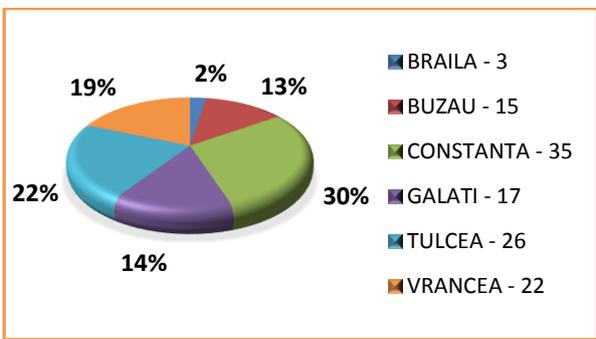
In Bulgaria, the study covers protected by Bulgarian legislation and the Natura 2000 sites within the South East region and under the administration of RIEWs Burgas and Stara Zagora. It covers nearly 100 areas, of which discussed in detail and mapped are 18, including the target area of the project - Burgas Lake Vaya.



South-east region of Bulgaria

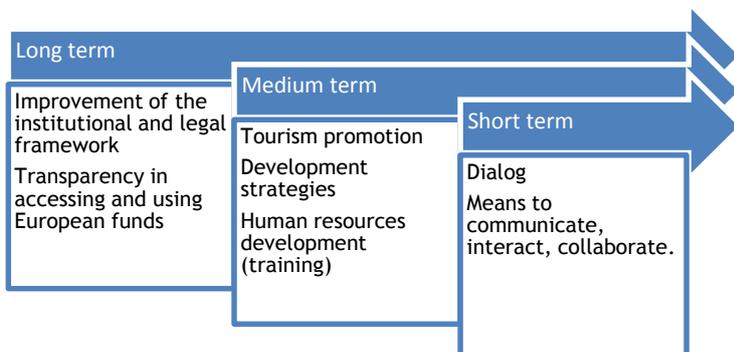
In Crimea, the study covers 13 protected areas in the region of Sevastopol, which are managed by the city administration of Sevastopol. In Romania, the study covers a very rich territory of protected areas- the South East region (118 zones), where is located the world famous Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve- one of the focus areas and the Small Island of Braila - the second focus area of the study.

Southeast Romania



A SWOT analysis of the three regions was developed, referring to the focus areas and its conclusions are similar in terms of threats to the protected areas. Specific to each focus area are the strengths and opportunities for development.

Proposed measures and guidelines for the development of protected areas in Romania:



Common borders. Common solutions.



The information on the protected areas processed within the state of art research is now part of the common data base created by SERDA's team.



Instead of discussion of the arguments which are plenty regarding the proposal made by the Ministry, the meeting failed completely and was a waste of time and resources for the dozens who traveled to Burgas from the region of the Southern coast.

What are the steps from now on, who will lose from the failed process and what would be the consequences for the little remaining virgin nature? All of it is left in the hands of the Ministry, who managed only to say that it is not their proposal. A fact that became clear to all.

Overall, the project does not include a number of areas that should fall within the scope of the national park, and does not incorporate the aquatory (sea waters) of the Black Sea. In addition, there are discrepancies in the maps in which are included lands of settlements and private property, which has already sparked violent reactions.

Conclusion is that this project is not designed to protect the Bulgarian *Black Sea* coast, but rather to confront locals and environmentalists and serve the interests of certain circles with construction investment intentions for the few remaining pristine coastline.

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS CORNER

(part of this article is published here: <http://www.saltoflife.biodiversity.bg/bg/>)

There is already a decision of the National Assembly of Bulgaria for the creation of a new national park "Black Sea". It meets the obligations of Bulgaria, together with Romania in the frameworks of the European Union to protect the natural heritage of the Black Sea bio geographical region.

The project of national park **Black Sea** faced the opposition of local residents in coastal communities. Furthermore, environmentalists have also found many discrepancies in the project. When several public hearings were held, it became clear that the advocates of the park are much less than its opponents.

The public consultation of the national park "Black Sea" held in the hall of Burgas Regional Administration ended in just 20 minutes when local opponents of the park did not give the word to the experts from the Ministry of Environment and Water, thus terminating the discussion process.

Atanasovsko Lake was proposed by BAS (Bulgarian academy of sciences) to be included within the future park area. But what his fate would be and how the drama surrounding its announcement will continue is not yet clear.



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