

## Thematic Report on Mountain Ecosystems

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

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Date of submission:	<b>30 October 2002</b>

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

**Stakeholders:**

- *Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP) - Agency of Environment*

Agency for Environment is competent authority for CBD implementation in the country. Two units within the Agency, i.e. Division of Biodiversity, Division of Special Nature Heritage Protection were directly involved in preparation of the report.

- *The Macedonian Biodiversity Committee (MCB)*

The Government of RM, June 2000, established this body upon decision and it is composed of representatives of state bodies, scientific, professional institutions and NGOs. It plays important role in the NBSAP process in Macedonia.

- *Society of Ecologists, NGO*

This society is composed form experts in natural sciences from the University in Skopje.

- *MAKMONTANA, NGO*

The activities of this organization are focused on protection and sustainable use of the mountains.

The competent authority invited mentioned organizations to participate in preparation of this material. The outcome of their joint work is presented report. The Director of the Agency adopted final version of this report.

### Mountain Ecosystems

1. What is the relative priority your country accords to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) High		b) Medium	x	c) Low	
2. How does your country assess the resources available for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems, both domestic and international?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	x
3. Has your country requested financial assistance from GEF for funding the activities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) no					x
b) yes, please provide details					

### Assessment, Identification and Monitoring

4. Has your country undertaken any assessment of direct and underlying causes of degradation and loss of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	x
b) yes, please specify major threats and their relative importance, as well as gaps	
c) If yes, please specify the measures your country has taken to control the causes of loss of mountain biodiversity	
5. Has your country identified taxonomic needs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	x
b) yes, please specify	
6. Has your country made any assessment of the vulnerability or fragility of the mountains in your country?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	x
b) yes, please specify the results and observed impacts on mountain biodiversity	
7. Has your country made any assessment important for conservation of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels? (You may wish to use the Annex I of the Convention for categories of biodiversity important for conservation)	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, some assessments or monitoring undertaken (please specify)	x
c) yes, comprehensive assessments or monitoring programmes undertaken (please specify where results can be found, and opportunities and obstacles, if any)	

### Regulatory and Information System and Action Plan

8. Has your country developed regulations, policies and programs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify sectors	x
9. Has your country applied the ecosystem approach (adopted at COP 5) in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	x
b) yes, please provide some cases or examples	
10. Does your national biodiversity strategy and action plan cover mountain biological diversity?	
a) no, please specify why	x
b) yes, please give some information on the strategy and plan, in particular on mountain biodiversity	
11. Has your country disseminated the relevant information concerning management practices, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	x
b) yes, please provide details where information can be retrieved concerning management practices, plans and programmes	

### Cooperation

12. Has your country undertaken any collaboration with other Parties for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems at the regional level or within a range of mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the objectives of this collaboration and achievements	x
13. Has your country signed or ratified any regional or international treaty concerning mountains?	
a) no	x
b) yes, please specify which treaty and provide as much as possible a report on the progress in the implementation of the treaties, including any major constraints in the implementation of the treaties	

### Relevant thematic areas and cross-cutting issues

14. Has your country taken account of mountain ecosystems while implementing thematic programmes of work on agricultural; inland waters; forest; and dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes – but in only one or two thematic programmes of work	x
c) yes, included in all programmes of work	
d) if yes, please specify details	
15. Has your country taken any measures to ensure that the tourism in mountains is sustainable?	
a) no , please specify why	x
b) yes, but in early stages of development (please specify the reasons)	
c) in advanced stages of development (please specify the reasons)	
d) relatively comprehensive measures being implemented (please specify the reasons)	
16. Has your country taken any measures to protect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	x
b) not relevant	
c) yes, but in early stages of policy or programme development	
d) yes, in advanced stages of development	
e) some programmes being implemented	
f) comprehensive programmes being implemented	
17. Has your country developed any programmes for the protection of natural and cultural heritages in the mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide some information in the programmes	x
18. Has your country established protected areas in mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the percentage of mountains under protected areas out of total mountain areas in your country	x
19. Has your country undertaken any activities to celebrate the International Year of Mountains and Eco-tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify	x

## Case-studies

**Please provide case-studies made by your country in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems.**

No case-studies.

## Further comments

4.a) The Republic of Macedonia has not made a comprehensive assessment of the reasons for biodiversity degradation and reduction in the mountain ecosystems. This is due to limited priority given to nature protection as well as the lack of financial resources resulting from the poor economic and social situation in the country.

5.a) RM has not identified the taxonomic needs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the mountain ecosystems at a national level, but research of some sites has been made by various institutions and the data has been scattered.

6.a) RM has not made an assessment of the vulnerability of mountains due to the reasons mentioned in 4a.

7.a) There is no assessment at a national level concerning the conservation of biodiversity in mountain ecosystems with regard to the genetical, species and ecosystem study, only individual assessments by various scientific institutions exist.

8.b) The legislation related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in mountain ecosystems in RM is contained in the following laws: Law on Protection of Natural Rarities, Law on Protection of National Parks, Law on Forests, Law on Hunting and Law on Pastures.

10.a) The Project for National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in Macedonia is in course, financed by GEF. Implementing Agency is the World Bank.

12.b) In 1994 the former Republic Institute for Protection of Natural Rarities of R. Macedonia (now in the scope of the MEPP) and the Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia signed a Protocol on cooperation in the area of protection and sustainable development of the biological diversity of the mountain Shar Planina.

Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REReP) in South Eastern Europe. This program is focused on promotion of regional cooperation in the field of environment and nature protection and promotion. Several cross-border projects in mountain ecosystems are on the programme's agenda.

### Cross border Prespa Park

In 2000, in the frames of the Prespa Declaration on Integrated Protection of the Transborder Prespa Park, the Governments of the Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Greece and the Republic of Albania established a joint coordination body. This body has adopted a programme including items on the conservation, use and sustainable development of biodiversity in mountain ecosystems.

15.a) Macedonia has not undertaken measures for sustainable tourism in the mountains, except for the national parks.

17.b) The new Spatial Plan of the Republic of Macedonia defines the spatial organization

of the state and the concepts of spatial development of various areas, among which the protection and use of natural resources and cultural values of the mountains.

Currently, the realization of the Project for social and economic development of the municipalities through exploitation and protection of the cultural and natural heritage on the territory of Maleshevo Mountains is in course of realization, financed by the World Bank.

18.b) The percentage of protected mountain areas in R. Macedonia is 7,4%. Three national parks are established in mountains. These are:

- NP Mavrovo, 73,088 ha
- NP Pelister, 12,500 ha
- NP Galicica, 22,750 ha

19.b) Upon initiative of MAKMONTANA, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has established a National Committee for celebration of the International Mountain Day in Macedonia. The Committee involves relevant state bodies (Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), National Parks Administration and NGOs. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has informed FAO about the composition of the Committee. On the occasion of the International Mountain Day MAKMONTANA produced a *poster - calendar* (printed in 1500 copies) that was distributed in R. Macedonia and abroad.

### **References:**

National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), 1996;

Final draft of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Macedonia (SPRM), 2001;

Publication of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Contributions);

Annual publication of the Faculty of Natural Sciences (PMF) and Faculty of Agriculture (FA) within the University of Skopje;

Framework of the Macedonian Forest Inventory (draft, 2001) prepared by the Sector of Forestry (SF) within the Macedonian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE);

Proceedings of the 1st Congress of Ecologists of the Republic of Macedonia with International Participation (1998), Tome 1 and 2. Society of Ecologists of the Republic of Macedonia;

Taxonomic analyses, morphological, ecological and other characteristic of the *Tilia argentea* in Macedonia (1983). Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA), Contributions IV 1-2: 11-32 (Aleksandar Andonovski, Faculty of Forestry, Skopje);

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Forest Vegetation of Mt. Bistra (1990). MASA, Bistra II ( Radoslav Rizovski & Slavco Dzekov, Faculty of Forestry, Skopje);

Vegetation of Mt. Bistra (1994). MASA, Bistra III (Kiril Micevski, Secretariat of the Biologic Sciences);

Comparative Population Study of the Birds in the dominant forest communities on the Galicica Mountain. Disertation (1990) Faculty of Natural Sciences, Skopje (Branko Micevski, FNS);

Station (permanent exp. plot) for complex ecosystem research in beech ecosystem in Mavrovo National Park (1998), SERM, Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of Ecologists of the Republic of Macedonia with International Participation. Tome 1 (Ljupco Grupce & Ljupco Melovski, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Skopje);

Implementation of the international criteria and standards for biological diversity conservation in mountain ecosystems in Macedonia (1998). SERM, Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of Ecologists of the Republic of Macedonia with International Participation. Tome 1 (Aleksandar Nastov, Office of the National Agency Naturopa, MOEPP, Skopje).