

INSTITUTE OF BIODIVERSITY
AND ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH
BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES



Ministry of Environment and Water

BulPlantNet

A Pilot Network of Small Protected Sites Using the Plant Micro-reserve Model

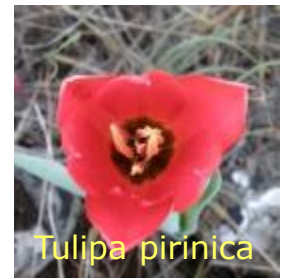
background and progress

Financed by LIFE+

Rayna Natcheva & Svetlana Bancheva



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Project location:

- outside existing protected areas
- within and outside Natura2000 sites

Duration:

01.01.2010 – 30.06.2013

Budget: 503 778 €

EU co funding: 50%

Coordinating Beneficiary:

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research – Bulgarian
Academy of Sciences

Associated Beneficiary:

Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria



The Flora of Bulgaria



Plant richness:

Total number of plant species: **4030**

Endemics: **444** (174 Bulgarian, 270 Balkan endemics)

Conservation status:

- National Red List - **801** species
- Bern Convention – **49** species
- IUSN Red List, 1997 – **21** species

Habitat richness:

90 habitat types of Appendix I of the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)



Threats to Bulgarian Flora



1. Loss of habitats as a result of:
 - ✓ Logging
 - ✓ Fires, erosion, overgrazing, secondary afforestation;
 - ✓ Drainage of wetlands and watercourse corrections;
 - ✓ Intensification of agriculture;
 - ✓ Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources;
 - ✓ General urbanization.
2. Pollution of the environment.
3. Changes in land use.
4. Exploitation of ecosystems and species resources.
5. Invasive species.
6. Lack of knowledge and effective management policy.
7. Non-compliance with national regulations and lack of public awareness.



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Genista
germanica

Strategic objective

Halting the loss and conservation of plant biodiversity in Bulgaria

Operational objectives

- To test the concept of Plant Micro-Reserves in Bulgaria by designation of a network of Small Protected Sites for plants.
- Elaboration of Action and Monitoring Plans for the target species.
- *In situ* and *Ex situ* conservation of the target species.
- Elaboration of a long-term Strategy for the sustainable development of Small Protected Sites.
- Information campaigns, training and dissemination of project objectives and results.



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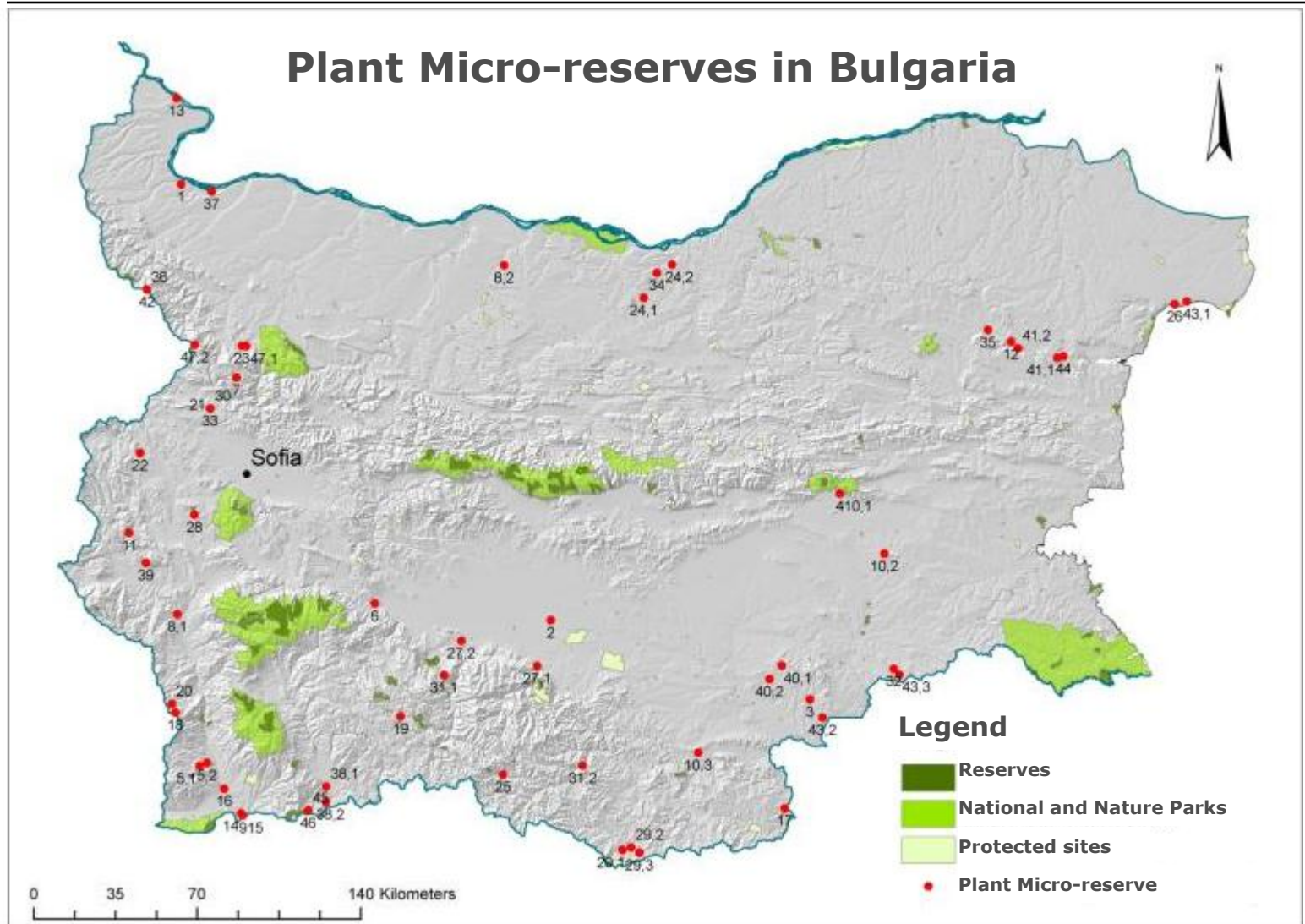


Project background and ideology

- The populations of 299 species fulfill the requirements for conservation in a network of Plant Micro-Reserves.
- 47 of these species need urgent conservation actions.
- The pilot network consists of 56 Small Protected Sites (up to 20 ha).
- The major ideology - legally establish a number of protected areas for a relatively short period of time.
- The PMR model for biodiversity conservation will be used in the future to add the localities of other threatened species to the network.



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Preparatory actions:

- A1 Primary data survey and acquisition of permissions – finished;
- A2 Training the project team to use digital maps and GIS – finished;
- A3 Initial inventory of the sites – finished;
- A4 Drafting of Monitoring Plans – 10 out of 47;
- A5 Evaluation and selection of populations and sites – finished;
- A6 Preparation of official proposals for the designation of new protected areas – for 24 sites out of 56;
- A7 Building a SPS network database – in progress;
- A8 Preparation of Action Plans - in progress.



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Concrete conservation actions:

- C1 Mapping of the sites – 40 sites mapped;
- C2 Installation of permanent monitoring plots - starts in 2011;
- C3 Application of the Monitoring plans and field training of local experts - starts in 2011;
- C4 In situ conservation actions – for 4 species;
- C5 Procedures for designation of SPS – for 24 sites;
- C6 Establishment of ex situ populations and reintroduction - collected material from 12 species.



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Public awareness and dissemination of results:

- D1 Initial information meetings with local authorities and public – finished (15 information meetings with 205 participants);
- D2 Workshop and sharing experience – accomplished;
- D3 Creation and update of project website – accomplished;
- D4 Setting of permanent Notice boards – starts in 2011;
- D5 Layman's report - at the end of the project;
- D6 Preparation and dissemination of information materials – starts in 2011;
- D7 Final information meetings – at the end of the project.



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Expected results:

- Creation of a network of Small Protected Sites for plants of European and national conservation importance;
- Legal designation of 56 Protected sites;
- *In situ* conservation and monitoring of the target species;
- Database for the enlargement and future sustainable management of the network of PMRs;
- Establishment of *ex situ* collection of the target species;
- Set up the conditions for extension of the network in a Strategy, and by collaboration with target groups;
- Increased awareness and engagement of local people, stakeholders, experts, etc.



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Thank you . . .

