



Bourgas Wetlands - PLACES FOR BIRDS AND PEOPLE

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The Bulgarian Black Sea Coast around the city of Bourgas consists of a complex of coastal wetlands which forms the most valuable and biggest wetland complex in the country.

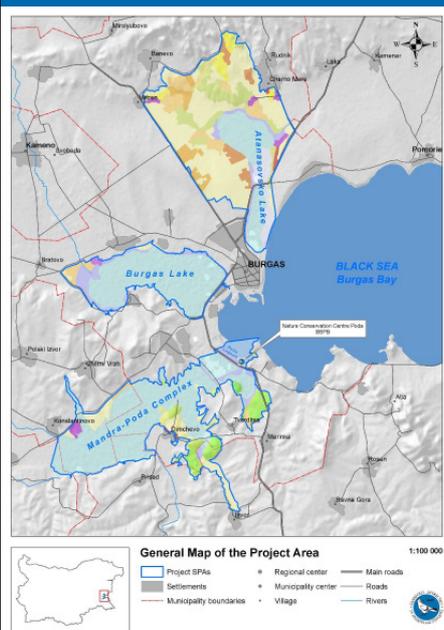
Their total area is about 9500 ha, 3300 ha of which are protected areas.



- The wetlands providing important breeding and wintering habitats for a number of European and globally threatened species like the Pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*), and the Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)
- The lake complex is an important stop for birds flying on the second biggest migratory route in Europe - Via Pontica
- The major threats to the sites and species come from:
 - ✓ the anthropogenic pressure because of closeness to the densely populated city, the big industrial facilities (port and oil refinery) and the uncontrolled access outside the Protected areas
 - ✓ the dangerous electric poles and power lines in the vicinity of the lakes provoking collision and electrocution of birds
 - ✓ disturbance of birds by humans and predators
 - ✓ illegal killing and accidental net catching of birds
 - ✓ habitats change affecting key breeding and feeding habitats



Conservation status of the lakes



- Atanasovsko Lake – Managed Reserve, Natura 2000 site, IBA, Ramsar site
- Bourgas Lake (Vaya) – Protected area, Natura 2000 site, IBA, Ramsar site
- Pomorie Lake - Protected area, Natura 2000 site, IBA, Ramsar site
- Poda (part of Mandra Lake) – Protected area, Natura 2000 site, IBA, Ramsar site
- Mouth of Izvorska River (part of Mandra) – Protected area
- Uzungeren (part of Mandra) – Protected area

How we started? Bourgas Wetlands Project - BSBCP

- Management Plans preparation;
- Public awareness;
- Stakeholders involvement;
- Support for the main actors;
- Urgent conservation measures



Regional Forum

- > Participatory approach;
- > Signing the Agreement;
- > Regular meetings;
- > Joint activities



Institutional strengthening

- Regional Inspectorate for Environment and Water – Bourgas;
- Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds;



Projects development

- Municipality of Bourgas – cleaning of Vaya canal;
- RIEW - Bourgas – Hide for Bird watching;
- Black Sea Salinas - cleaning of Atanasovsko Lake canal; former Salinas train for tourists
- Green Balkans Federation – Restoration of Pomorie Lake, Management Plan preparation and Visitor Center development;
- BSPB – Life + project for the other 3 lakes



Project title: LIFE FOR THE BOURGAS LAKE

BUDGET INFO: Total amount: 1 775 006.00 €
% EC Co-funding: 75%

DURATION: Start: 01/01/2010 - End: 31/12/2013

PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS:

Coordinating Beneficiary: Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife Bulgaria

Associated Beneficiary(ies): Royal Society for the Protection of Birds/
BirdLife UK
Chernomorski solnici
Municipality of Bourgas
Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

1. Strengthen the strategic planning framework to secure the long-term conservation of Natura 2000 priority bird species and sustainable management of their habitats
2. Maintain and enhance feeding, breeding and roosting habitats for priority bird species
3. Reduce the impact of direct and indirect threats on priority bird species
4. Ensure the mainstreaming of best practice in the conservation of priority bird species into Natura 2000 site management
5. Enhance public understanding of and support for the conservation of priority bird species, their habitats and the wider Natura 2000 sites that are crucial for their long-term protection




EXPECTED RESULTS:

- Besides the direct conservation effect the project will establish a model for public private partnership for the benefit of Bourgas wetlands. The project will thus develop a model replicable to other regions in the country.



The Bourgas Lakes - how the nature and the city will continue their cohabitation?



Thank you for your attention!