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## Emerald Network Pilot Project in the "former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

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### Acknowledgements

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" would like to acknowledge and thank to the Council of Europe Secretariat for assistance in setting up the Emerald Network in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and for the support of the Pilot Project as an important preparatory work for future designation of Natura 2000 sites, when "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" will join the European Union.

### 1. Background

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" has ratified the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) in 1997. Taking into consideration provisions of the Convention (Articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6b and 9) and following the Recommendations No.14, 15 and 16 (1989), 25 (1991) and Resolutions No. 1 (1989), 3 (1996), 4 (1996), 5 and 6 (1998), "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" has started setting up the Emerald Network.

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" is one of the countries invited by the Council of Europe to join the Emerald process at the year 2002 by taking part in the Emerald Network Pilot Project. The objective of the project was to develop a pilot database containing a fair proportion of the Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI) and submit a proposal for selected site designation to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. The pilot-project is a starting point that will lay the basis for the development of the Emerald Network at the national level.

### 2. Framework of the Pilot Project

The framework of the Pilot Project is defined by the Contract No. 13/2002 as follows:

1. Set up a National Team of experts related to the development of the Emerald Network which should comprise technical, administrative and scientific persons;
2. Organize a workshop, during which the above mentioned team will be initiated to the Emerald principles and technicalities by the staff and the expert of the Council of

Europe. In this work the Emerald Network software will be installed and explained together with instructions concerning the scientific background of the data collection;

3. Evaluate the results on presence of species and habitats within each biogeographical region in the country;

4. Construct a pilot database on real sites, which will eventually become Emerald sites using the Emerald software.

### **3. Structure of the National Emerald Network team**

The national Emerald Network Team was formed after signing the project contract. The team is mainly based on the capacity of the Agency of Environment and GIS Center, within the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. The experts in Biodiversity are coming from the University of Skopje, The Macedonian Museum of Natural History, the NGO "BIOECO".

#### ***List of members of the Emerald team:***

1. M.Sc. Konstantin Siderovski, team leader
2. Dr. Svetozar Petkovski, fauna expert
3. Dr. Vlado Matevski, flora expert
4. M.Sc. Vesna Sidorovska, herpetologist
5. M.Sc. Aleksandar Nastov, protected areas expert
6. Vasil Anastasovski, protected areas expert
7. Sokol Klincarov, geological expert
8. Igor Paunovski, GIS expert
9. M.Sc. Robertina Brajanoska, medicinal herbs expert, administrator
10. Trajce Donev, technical expert

### **4. Activities carried out in the framework of the project**

#### ***4.1. The Emerald Workshop***

The Workshop was organized at the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, more precisely in the Agency for Environment in Skopje, on 21-22 March 2002 in order to introduce the National Team to the principles and technical aspects of the Emerald Network and to organize training for the team.

The workshop was working in three plenary sessions. The sessions were managed by the working presidency: Aleksandar Nastov, Head of the Biodiversity Division, Mrs. Helene Bouguessa and Mr. Marc Roekaerts from the Council of Europe and Robertina Brajanoska, advisor in the Biodiversity Division in the Agency of Environment.

After the welcome words three topics were presented. Dr. Svetozar Petkovski, scientific expert in the Macedonian Museum of Natural History has given a detailed overview of the biodiversity condition in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". In her presentation Mrs. Helene Bouguessa explained the legal framework of the Emerald Network, criteria for selection of ASCI and introduced the following relevant Emerald documentation: background of the Emerald Network creation, legal basis of the Emerald Network, process of the site designation, relation of the Emerald Network to other ecological networks and current situation in building up the Emerald Network. Mr. Mark Roekaerts, expert on Emerald software, has presented the final version of the Emerald Network Software. In the other sessions, he explained the main features of the Emerald Network database and the Standard Data Entry Form and provided an explanation step-by-step on the introduction of the data into the software by the interactive work on the specific task – data for the National Park Pelister.

#### ***4.2. Working plan***

The working plan of the National Emerald Team for potential ASCIs selection is as follows:

**Table 1.** Working plan of activities

Activity No.	1 Feb.	2 March	3 Apr.	4 May	5 June	6 July
1	X					
2		X				
3			X	X	X	
4					X	X
5						X

Activity No.	7 Aug.	8 Sept.	9 Oct.	10 Nov.	11 Dec.
5	X	X			
6	X	X	X		
7				X	
8					X

1. Building up a national Emerald team
2. Training of the national Emerald team
3. Identification of the species and habitats within each biogeographical region in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
4. Selection of potential ASCIs
5. Description of the potential ASCIs
6. Building up the database of Emerald designated sites
7. Preparing the Report for the Emerald Network pilot-project
8. Submission of proposals.

#### **4.3. Designation categories in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"**

The country's protected areas are classified into six categories according to the criteria of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Law on Natural Rarities Protection. The protected area network covers 184,137 ha (7.16 per cent) of the territory of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (table 2).

Lake Prespa is included on the World Ramsar List since 3 May 1995. The site covers part of the Lake (up to 6m in depth), the coast and the muddy terrains near the locality Ezerani with total area of 18.920 ha.

Lake Ohrid and its coast, as a Site of World Importance, is included in the World List of UNESCO since 1980. It covers area of 38.000 ha.

The transboundary Park-Prespa was established on 02.02.2000, according to the Declaration adopted by the Prime Ministers of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Republic of Albania and Republic of Greece. The main objective is integral protection, sustainable development and management of the protected areas on a threelateral level.

**Table 2.** Number, condition and size of the protected areas in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Category of protected areas	Nb. of objects	Area (ha)	Nb. of protected species	Note
<b>Strict Natural Reserves</b> (IUCN cat. I)	<b>2</b>	<b>12.730</b>	<b>61</b>	Water birds
			<b>22</b>	Predator birds
			<b>14</b>	Other aquatic animals
			<b>32</b>	Hairy wild animals
			<b>13</b>	Bats
			<b>42</b>	Reptiles
				Plant species

<b>National Parks</b> (IUCN cat. II)	<b>3</b>	<b>108.338</b>	<b>134</b> <b>37</b> <b>45</b> <b>16</b> <b>27</b> <b>83</b>	Ornitofauna Hairy animals Fish and amphibians Reptiles Bats Plant species
<b>Natural monuments</b> (IUCN cat. III)	<b>47</b>	<b>58.084</b>		Representatives of the above mentioned categories
<b>Other protected areas</b> (IUCN cat. IV – VI)		<b>4.985</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>184.137</b>		

#### **4.4. List of Biogeographical zones in the country**

All the territory of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" is included in two biogeographical zones:

1. Continental
2. Alpine

#### **4.5. Taxonomic list of Emerald species requiring specific habitat conservation measures present in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"**

[List of Emerald Species referring to species listed in Resolution No. 6 \(1998\)](#)

#### **4.6. List of Emerald endangered natural habitat types requiring specific conservation measures present in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"**

[List of Emerald natural habitats present in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" \(referring the habitats listed in Resolution No. 4, 1996\)](#)

#### **4.7. Selection of potential ASCIs**

After identification of the Emerald species listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998) and Emerald habitats listed in Resolution No. 4 (1996) present in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", potential Areas of Special Conservation Interest were selected basing on the criteria listed in the Recommendation No. 16 (1989). The selected sites are:

1. NP Galichica
2. SNR Ezerani
3. NM Lake Dojran

For each of the mentioned sites a special Standard data form was filed in accordance to the Emerald software version 1.1. User Manual (1999).

#### **4.8. Map of distribution of proposed Emerald sites**



## 5. Suggestions and future plans (Follow-up)

According to the National Team tasks for making contacts with environmental magazines, which focus on introducing the importance of the Emerald Network to the public, some articles were published in the specialized magazine for environment "Ekologija" (Ecology). The objectives of the Emerald Network were also presented on the National TV Network.

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" intends to continue the works on the Emerald Networks building up within the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biological and Landscape Diversity. These works will be carried out together with the development of the National Ecological Network. The public authorities, scientific institutions, NGOs and local public authorities will be involved in the implementation of these projects.

As a result, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" is going to request additional funds from the Council of Europe to continue the works of building up the Emerald Network as a component/part of the National Ecological Network.

## 6. Financial statement of expenditure with the breakdown of the costs

**Table 3.** Financial statement

Item	Costs (Euros)
<b>Equipment and material</b>	
Purchase of PC and peripherals + Software	1.700,00
<b>Field costs</b>	
Travel and accomodation expenses for experts	500,00
<b>Professional fees</b>	
Data management	1.000,00
National Team expert Costs	4.800,00
<b>Publication / Printing</b>	
Publication of promotional material	1.000,00

**TOTAL** 9.000,00

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**Appendix 1: National park "Galichica"**

[See the document](#) (PDF)

**Appendix 2: Strict Nature Reserve "Ezerani"**

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**Appendix 3 : Monument of Nature "Dojransko Ezero"**

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