



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

TO
MR. MECHTILD RÖSSLER
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Министерство на околната среда и водите
Изх. № 54-00-358
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MRS. MARIA DONSKA
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
BULGARIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR UNESCO
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

November 2015

Subject: *State of conservation report of Pirin National Park World Heritage Property (Bulgaria)*

Dear Mrs. Rössler,

In response to a letter from the World Heritage Center and in fulfillment of Decision 38 COM 7B.73 of the World Heritage Committee from its 38th session, held in Doha, Katar (2014), please find enclosed the State of conservation report of Pirin National Park World Heritage Property, elaborated in compliance with the indicative format for the submission of state of conservation reports by the States Parties.

In reply to the encouragement of the Committee to the State Parties to ensure public access to their state of conservation reports in order to enhance transparency of the processes, related to the preservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Properties, on behalf of the Ministry of environment and water of Bulgaria, I would like to authorize the World Heritage Centre to upload the State of conservation report of Pirin National park World Heritage Property for 2015 on the website of the World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind support for the protection of the World Heritage Properties of Bulgaria.

Sincerely yours,

IVELINA VASSILEVA
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER



REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PIRIN NATIONAL PARK **WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY**

Pirin National Park World Heritage Property (Republic of Bulgaria) (Identification number 225)

I. Executive summary

The Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) will take into consideration the request of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) and will put the draft management plan of Pirin National Park (PNP) to the procedures for Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and Appropriate assessment (AA) along with the Bulgarian legislation, in which are transposed the Directives of the European Union for strategic environmental assessment and for conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna, also taking into account the IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

Pirin National Park Directorate (PNPD) carried out demarcation of the boundaries of Pirin National Park and World Heritage Property (WHP) and its buffer zone with lasting marks at the field. The activity was accomplished in fulfilment of a recommendation of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the Property (2011) within a Project, funded by Operational Program Environment.

All of the recommendations, given by the mission have been taken into consideration by the State Party, as most of them have been completed and others are still under implementation phase.

The draft of the new management plan of PNP is currently proceeded under the Protected areas Act and the Regulation for preparation of management plans for protected areas in Bulgaria.

The draft management plan of PNP foresees elaboration of a methodology for monitoring the impact of skiing and other activities that take place within the buffer zone on the surrounding WHP in order to ensure that they do not negatively affect the outstanding universal value of the site.

PNPD promotes and implements the Strategy for sustainable nature tourism, developed under the Participation Program of UNESCO by completing activities, envisaged by the Action plan - part of the Strategy.

In 2014 and 2015 the MOEW has not registered any new conservation issues, related to the protection and conservation status of the Property.

All projects and investment proposals in the buffer zone and in the WHP are proceeded in line with the Bulgarian legislation and are subject of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and AA for their compatibility with the conservation subject and objective of Pirin National Park as WHP and Natura 2000 site (regulated by the Environmental Protection Act - EPA and the Regulation for the conditions and procedures for assessing the compatibility of plans, programs, projects and investment proposals with the conservation subject and objective of Natura 2000 sites - Regulation for Appropriate assessment).

The control over the implementation of the approved projects and investment proposals is carried out by PNPD and MOEW.

In 2014 and 2015 the MOEW considered and approved projects and investment proposals, related mainly to ensuring the functioning of existing facilities, improving the safety of tourists, enhancing the quality of the tourist services and improving of the environment.

II. Response from Republic of Bulgaria to the World Heritage Committee's Decision: 38 COM 7B.73, paragraph by paragraph

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision 37 COM 7B.17, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

The Ministry of Environment and Water as the institution in charge of the management of Pirin National Park and World Heritage Property also considered Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B and Decision 37 COM 7B.17 of the WHC, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), pointed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Decision: 38 COM 7B.73 of the WHC.

3. Notes the information provided by the State Party that further developments in the buffer zone of the property could be considered within the new management plan for Pirin National Park, and given the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, requests the State Party to ensure that the new management plan is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) prior to being adopted, in line with the European Union (EU) SEA Directive, the EU Habitat Directive, and IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

The draft management plan of PNP will be a subject to the procedures for SEA and AA along with the Bulgarian legislation, in which are transposed the Directives of the European Union for SEA and for conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna, taking also into account the IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

4. Also requests the State Party to expedite the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission which have not yet been implemented, in particular to complete the process of the demarcation of the boundaries of the property, including its buffer zone;

Below is presented information on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the Property and particularly the recommendation related to the completion of the process for demarcation of the boundaries of the property, including its buffer zone;

5. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2015, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above requests, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

Current report on the State of conservation of Pirin National Park as a World Heritage Property has been prepared pursuant to § 5 of Decision: 38 COM 7B.73 of the WHC.

Information on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property are indicated as follows:

a) ensure effective wider regional planning for economic development, and ensure that no developments that exceed the capacity of the area are permitted,

The regional planning in Bulgaria is carried out under the Territorial development Act (TDA). According to TDA for the territory of each municipality is elaborated a Master development plan (MDP).

In the process of elaboration of MDP is carried out Strategic environmental assessment and Appropriate assessment for its compatibility with the conservation subject and objective of the respective protected area and Natura 2000 site. In the course of these assessments are envisaged measures which to prevent from future developments which may exceed the capacity of the area.

The MDP of Bansko and Sandanski municipalities have been already proceeded in accordance to the environmental legislation by the competent territorial authority of the MOEW - Regional Inspectorate of environment and waters for the town of Blagoevgrad. For both master plans positive statements have been issued. According to TDA the master plans of Bansko and Sandanski municipalities are about to be considered and adopted at sessions of the respective municipal councils.

The master development plans of the other municipalities around Pirin National Park – Simitli, Kresna and Gotse Delchev are still being proceeded along with the Environmental protection Act and the Biological diversity Act.

The MOEW can influence on the intentions of the municipalities, related to development particularly by subjecting their plans to the above mentioned assessments. In this regard it should be noted that the plans of Bansko and Sandanski municipalities are consistent with the currently acting management plan of PNP.

b) promote and implement the 2010 Strategy for sustainable nature tourism as a viable alternative to ski-based tourism development

PNPD currently promotes and implements the Strategy for sustainable nature tourism (Strategy), developed under the Participation Program of UNESCO. Some of the activities, envisaged by the Action plan, elaborated as part of the Strategy have been already completed. The above mentioned are pointed below:

- Information meetings with hoteliers and experts from the municipal administrations in the municipalities, adjacent to the park were carried out by PNPD. At these meetings were popularized and distributed copies of the Strategy for sustainable nature tourism, as well as copies of the advertising folder also developed within the project (note: The folder is showing the specific potential of each municipality, surrounding PNP and the benefits for their residents by developing sustainable tourism practices).
- The Strategy for sustainable nature tourism in PNP can be reached on the website of PNPD - section "Projects".
- PNPD maintains good relations with the schools in the region by regularly organizing trainings, aimed at protecting the unique biodiversity in PNP and WHP.
- PNPD organizes regular meetings of the Consultative council, established as consultative body of the Directorate and involving representatives of various governmental institutions, NGOs and representatives of local businesses.
- In the five visitor and information centres, managed by the Directorate are maintained interpretative exhibitions, providing comprehensive information about the park. In the visitor centres are also performed presentations and provided materials, related to biological and landscape diversity of the national park. Besides, each chalet in the national park has a separate place where informational materials, dedicated to the natural values of the Property can be obtained.
- In 2013 PNPD jointly with Bansko municipality implemented a project, aimed at restoration and conservation of historic sites within the park - architectural complex "Kalyata" and "St. Nikola".
- Within the project "Sustainable management of Pirin National Park and Tisata Nature Reserve" (Project) were organized two press - conferences and issued many printed publications and information materials, aimed at raising the public awareness about the values of the Property.

- A new visitor centre in the town of Bansko was built and opened for visitors within the Project. Some elements of the visitor infrastructure in the national park were repaired and new ones were also built.
- In 2013 within the Project was organized a traveling exhibition "Pirin - the magic mountain" prepared by PNPD and dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the national park and the 30th anniversary of the inscription of PNP in the World Heritage list of UNESCO. The exhibition was shown in several major cities in Bulgaria, including the capital.
- In 2015 was built tourist shelter "Kornishki lakes", listed as a recommendation in the action plan of the Strategy.
- In 2015 were also developed: specialized applications for "Visualization of the tourist routes in Pirin National Park", web-based geographic information system and mobile application, which to assist tourists and to provide them with options for tracking of certain locations in real time.
- PNP and WHP participated at the international exhibition "Expo Milano 2015", dedicated on the core theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life". For the purpose PNPD prepared and participated with a video presentation about the WHP as well as with high quality photos of emblematic natural features of the national park and photos, demonstrating existing good practices, related to sustainable production and consumption of food in the adjacent park areas.

Besides the abovementioned activities the draft management plan for PNP foresees implementation of certain projects which will be also in fulfilment of the Strategy.

It is envisaged that some of the activities will be carried out in the future after ensuring the appropriate funding.

c) clearly demarcate, communicate and maintain the boundaries of the property as defined in Decision 34 COM 8B.5, using ascertained Global Positioning System (GPS) measurements, and ensure that these boundaries are respected,

PNPD carried out demarcation of the boundaries of PNP and the buffer zone of the WHP of UNESCO (ski zones "Bansko" and "Dobrinishte") with lasting marks at the field in fulfilment of the recommendation of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the Property (2011). The activity was accomplished within the Project for Sustainable Management of Pirin National Park and Tisata Nature Reserve after carrying out of the respective procedures, foreseen by the Public Procurement Act.

The total number of the placed marks along the boundary of the buffer zone of the WHP is 966.

The marks have been processed beforehand in order to be prevented from unfavourable atmospheric conditions. On each mark is installed a plate with size of 10 x 15 centimetres, indicating the boundary of the buffer zone of the Property.

d) put in place processes to monitor the impacts of the ski and other activities within the buffer zone on the surrounding property, in order to ensure that they do not negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

The draft management plan of PNP foresees elaboration of a methodology for monitoring the impact of skiing and other activities that take place within the buffer zone on the surrounding World Heritage Property in order to ensure that they do not negatively affect the outstanding universal value of the site.

Weekly the employees of the PNPD perform inspections in the buffer zone, evaluating the impact of all activities, carried out inside it.

Annually experts from the MOEW – National Nature Protection Service Directorate carry out planned inspections at the Property in order to provide control over the activities in the buffer zone.

e) ensure that the implementation of restoration measures are strictly supervised and monitored by the Pirin National Park Directorate in accordance with conditions in the Territorial Arrangement Plan (TAP), Environmental Impact Assessments or any other subsequent administrative decisions,

In the decisions for EIA and AA of any investment proposal are set out measures and conditions for restoration/rehabilitation of the concerned area and habitat. The experts from PNPd and the park rangers provide control over the implementation of all the investment proposals including the fulfilment of the foreseen measures for restoration and re - cultivation by means of control checks and drawing of protocols about the findings.

In relation to the above PNPd has developed and applies the following internal procedure:

- Before implementation of the investment proposal within the buffer zone of the Property the Director of Pirin National Park issues an order on the basis of a letter from the minister of environment and water.

- In line with the order the Chief inspector of the respective park region prepares a schedule for the park rangers who are expected to provide control over the fulfilment of the conditions and measures, laid down in the letter of the minister.

- After completing of the assigned control activity during the day the park rangers provide the chief inspector with written statement with findings of what activities have been carried out during the day and whether the conditions, mentioned in the letter of the minister have been respectfully fulfilled.

- The chief inspector of the concrete park section presents in PNPd weekly reports on the accomplished activities and the control provided by the park rangers over the implementation of the imposed conditions till the completion of all the activities, related to the implementation of certain investment proposal.

The construction and operation of all the facilities and buildings in the buffer zone is consistent with the required environmental standards.

On the territory of Bansko ski zone are constructed three biological steps for wastewater treatment. Besides, high level environmental technologies are functioning on the ground, a program for grass and turfing of the open terrains is applied, measures for erosion control and strengthening of the terrain are undertaken, etc.

f) expedite the process and make available sufficient resources to ensure that the new Management Plan of the property is completed and approved on time for its implementation immediately after the current Management Plan ceases being in effect in 2013,

As we have informed the Secretariat a change in the Regulation for preparation of management plans for protected areas from 2012 according to which the acting management plans remain in full effect until new ones are adopted and entry into force, guarantees that PNP and WHP will not pass a period without management plan.

The draft of the management plan of PNP is currently proceeded under the Protected areas Act and the Regulation for preparation of management plans for protected areas in Bulgaria.

Within the foreseen procedure the draft management plan was a subject to a public hearing, held on 24 July 2015.

On 24.08.2015 the draft of the management plan was submitted to the MOEW with the minutes of the public hearing and information about the notes and opinions, which were made during the hearing but were not reflected by the preparatory team in the draft document.

Currently, MOEW makes a thorough review and analysis of the content of the draft management plan. Given the registered discrepancies between the draft management plan, the technical specification and the assignment, approved by the minister of environment and water, the draft will be returned for corrections to the team that conducted its preparation.

g) prepare detailed “Tourism Implementation Plans” for the Bansko and Dobrinishte buffer zones, consolidating existing, approved and envisaged plans in a transparent manner, and ensure that these buffer zone areas are explicit parts of the new Management Plan;

With letter 04-02-13 from 31.01.2012 the MOEW informed the Secretariat that the management plans for the national parks and the Territorial arrangement plans - TAP (what are supposed to be the “Tourism Implementation Plans” for “Dobrinishte” and “Bansko” ski zones” according to Decision 36 COM 7B.18 of the WHC) because of their different functions are developed in accordance with different laws, which are correspondingly the Protected Areas Act and the Spatial Planning Act. In this line it is not possible a TAP or other arrangement or technical plan to be developed as part of the management plan of a national park as required by the decision.

The specialized Bulgarian legislation requires all the arrangement and technical plans obligatory to comply with the regimes, determined by the management plans of the relevant protected areas (Pirin National Park in the current case), though juristically they can not be part of the same document.

As we have informed the Secretariat only after the adoption of the new management plan of PNP will be elaborated a Territorial Arrangement plan for the development of the buffer zone of the Property (Bansko and Dobrinishte ski zones) with specific parameters and location of the facilities envisaged. The abovementioned TAP will be obligatory a subject to SEA and AA for compliance with the conservation subject and objectives of Natura 2000.

III. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party

In 2014 and 2015 the MOEW has not registered any new conservation issues related to the protection and conservation status of the Property.

IV. In conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, please describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) within the protected area (core zone and buffer zone and/or corridors) that might be envisaged.

All projects and investment proposals in the buffer zone and in the WHP are proceeded in line with the Bulgarian legislation and are subject of EIA and AA for their compatibility with the conservation subject and objective of Pirin National Park and WHP and Natura 2000 site (regulated by EPA and the Regulation for Appropriate assessment).

The control over the implementation of the approved investment proposals and activities is carried out by PNP and MOEW.

In 2014 and 2015 MOEW considered and approved the following projects and investment proposals, related mainly to ensuring the functioning of existing facilities, improving the safety of tourists, enhancing the quality of the tourist services provided and improving of the environment.

- Investment proposal “Extension of the system for artificial snow, supplying ski runs 10 and 12 in Bansko Ski zone

The investment proposal aims to ensure snow for two ski runs in Bansko ski zone.

The planned activities related to the extension of the system for production of snow include: preparatory work (removal of grass turfs); excavations along the ski runs; shaping of the wells, in which will be installed the equipment for snow; laying of pipes and auxiliary cables (optic cable, electric cable); installation of snow cannons and restoration works. The investment proposal does not envisage occupation of additional lands neither a construction of additional water catchment. The wells will be located at some distance from each other, depending on the area that the snow machines will serve.

Water extraction for drinking, industrial and other needs is not envisaged, neither is the construction of new or modification of the existing road infrastructure. The waste, generated during the implementation will be gathered in removable containers and transported to the landfill of the town Razlog.

At present the implementation of the investment proposal is over.

- Investment proposal "Reconstruction of an existing ski drag (surface lift) "Children's anchor" to ensure the safety of tourists in the area of "Shiligarnika", Bansko Ski zone.

The reconstruction consists of moving of the lower station of the existing ski drag "Children's anchor" with 32 m. from its current location to the south-west direction and construction of a small embankment to ensure the safe use of the ski - drag.

The goal is to provide enough space for the users of ski slope № 8 and ski-drag "Children's anchor" so as to avoid incidents with tourists in the "Shiligarnika area" - Bansko ski zone.

The main motive for the investment proposal is the increased number of incidents in the recent years, due to the intersection of two major streams of skiers: those moving from the higher part of the mountain to the area "Banderishka valley" and those, using ski track № 8 and ski-drag "Children's anchor".

The intersection in question is a point of conflict, the solution of which lies in the need to release the required perimeter for safe use of the facilities in this part of the ski area.

According to the recommendation of the Mountain Rescue Service and on the initiative of the investor - "Yulen" Joint stock company was envisaged the problem to be solved by moving the lower station of the drag by means of which the length of the facility will be reduced from 551 meters to 519 meters. (practically will be shortened the distance between the two stations – upper and lower in the existing range of the ski drag). It is not expected the function of the facility to be compromised. This approach will help to ensure conflict-free conditions for different users of the ski area.

At present the implementation of the investment proposal is close to its end.

- Investment proposal "Construction of a base station № 1182" in the area of "Banderishka valley" and base station № 1181 at the area of "Shiligarnika", Pirin National Park, commissioned by "Max Telecom" Ltd.

The investment proposal is related to:

- Construction of a base station № 1182 on the roof of a building in the area of "Banderishka valley" - lift station - "Cabin lift";

- "Construction of a base station № 1181 on the roof of a building in the area of "Shiligarnika" - lift station - Shiligarnik - Plateau".

According to the information each base station is part of a management system, base transceiver - transmission station and subscriber devices. The relationship of each base station with the steering system is provided through the existing optical network.

The construction of the two base stations on the roofs of the lift stations has not changed the existing technical infrastructure. No excavations and use of explosives were carried out during the accomplishment of the investment proposal. No waste or waste water were formed as well.

At present the implementation of the investment proposal is over.

- Investment proposal "Reconstruction of intermediate lift station "Bunderitsa - 1" and "Bunderitsa - 2" in Bansko Ski zone

The investment proposal envisaged reconstruction of intermediate station by installation of metal construction which to serve as office with 11 working places.

The investment proposal was realized within the range of the existing facility - under the terrace of the intermediate lift station "Banderitsa 1" and "Banderitsa 2" within the area of "Banderishka valley", Bansko ski zone.

There were no earthworks carried out, since it was a matter of attaching a metal construction to the existing facility.

The office will function only in cases of conducting of ski competitions;

At present the implementation of the investment proposal is over.

- Investment proposal „Reconstruction and change of the use of an existing building – “warehouse“ into a „chapel“ in plot № 61813.808.7.12, Pirin NP

The investment proposal is related to reconstruction of an existing building with an area of 24 sq. meters (in the lands of Razlog) and change of its use from a "warehouse" to a "chapel". The investment proposal will be carried out in the existing building, with ensured transport access, so that the performance of investment activities shall not be related to changes of the infrastructure. Using of explosives and excavation works are not foreseen, neither are water supply of the chapel and lead off of wastewaters.

At present the investment proposal is almost over as only finishing works are about to be executed.

- Investment project "Capturing, design and repair of a road network and related infrastructure in "Sinanitsa" Park region in "Final meadows" area – "Zagaza" chalet - with length of 13 kilometres, with contracting authority PNPD

The investment proposal of PNPD was related to capturing, design and repair of a road network and connected infrastructure in "Sinanitsa" Park region - "Final meadows" area - "Zagaza" chalet - with length of 13 km and restoration of wooden bridge on Vlahina river, Sinanishka river and two wooden bridges on Zagazka river. The activities were part of the project for sustainable management of PNP and Tisata Nature Reserve.

The reconstruction activities of the road were mainly related to the construction of a road surface from crushed stone, as well as replacement and reconstruction of transport infrastructure - culverts, reconstruction (recovery) of existing wooden bridges and supporting walls.

At present the implementation of the investment proposal is over.

- Investment proposal of Razlog municipality for reconstruction and extension of an open terrace of "Yavorov" chalet, located in the "Meadows" area - Razlog municipality.

The investment proposal is related to the reconstruction of existing massive terrace of "Yavorov" chalet located in the "Meadows" area - Razlog municipality. According to the information the terrace has been extended by wooden construction, made of pinewood (impregnated against rot, moisture and burning) without going out from the built - up area. The necessary materials have been delivered in ready for construction form and have been assembled at the place. No excavations and blasting have been carried out.

At present the implementation of the investment proposal is over.

- Investment proposal of "Marengo Trading" for "Reconstruction of 3-seat lift "Todorka" - Bansko Ski zone

The investment proposal is related to reconstruction of the existing 3-seats lift from "Shiligarnika" area to "Todorka" peak ("Todorka" rope line), built some 27 years ago and in continuous operation since its construction until the present. The investment proposal envisaged the old facility to be replaced with fast six-seats lift (with detachable seats), which will increase the capacity of the line from 800 persons per hour to 2000 persons per hour. The

working hours of the lift shall not be changed. It will remain working only during the winter season (from 01:12 to 15:04) with 7.5 working hours per day, so the degree of disturbance will not be significant.

The route of the six - seats lift fully coincides with the existing route of the 3 - seat lift. It is envisaged that the upper and lower lift stations will be located at the places of the existing ones and be supported by two supporting pillars (columns) and the terrain below them will remain free and grassed.

At present the implementation of the investment proposal is close to completion.

- Investment proposal of "Yulen" Joint stock company "Strengthening and rehabilitation of landslides along ski road Bansko - Banderishka meadow"

The strengthening is foreseen for accomplishment along ski road № 1 "Banderishka valley - Bansko" in plot №02676.191.1702 according to the Cadastral plan of the town of Bansko.

The east side of the ski road, connecting the town of Bansko with the area of "Banderishka valley" is at some places with eroded steep slopes without vegetation and with overhanging roots on the upper edge.

This situation leads to a danger from falling rocks, landslides and falling trees on the ski run.

At the foot of the slope currently are stacked metal cells with big pieces of crashed stones, arranged in them (gabions), which are partially damaged by the materials, falling from the slope and can not serve as reliable protection. Due to the damage of those metal cells part of the destroyed material has fallen on the ski road and poses a serious danger to tourists and skiers.

The investment proposal foresees strengthening of the eroded earth batters in section 3 of ski road 1 in Bansko ski zone by means of buried wooden retaining walls and reinforcement geo grids. For this section is foreseen placement of 5 walls with total length of 125 meters. It is also envisaged to smooth the upper edge of the slope by taking away of the overhanging earth and removing of the trees in close proximity (5 m) to the upper edge of the slope. The area earmarked for deforestation is with length of 150 m., width of 5 m and total coverage of 750 m². It is planned that 33 marked beforehand trees (fir and spruce) will be removed.

The middle third of the slope, in accordance to the incline and the erosion potential is proposed to be covered with light grid for stones with additional protection for erosion, composed by natural materials - coconut grid and straw coverage. Before the placement of the grids is foreseen laying of hydro sowing seed in the form of water-based paste-like mass, containing wood fibers (designed to form a protective layer to retain moisture) and grass mixture (presented by the types of red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), fescue (*Festuca commutata*), sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium Peren*), bovine trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*) and clover (*Trifolium repens*). Planting of the slope is scheduled to take place with local willow species.

At present the implementation of the investment proposal has not started. Only some hindering trees have been removed as the Park administration assigned their cutting to a company (in line with the Rules for assignment of activities in protected areas – exclusively state property).

- Investment proposal "Construction of a Hydro power plant at Perleshka River in the lands of Dobrinishte"

In 2014 the MOEW did not approve the investment proposal for construction of a Hydro power plant at Perleshka River in the lands of Dobrinishte, aimed at production of electricity. The proposal was found to be inadmissible in regards to the regimes of the national park, determined by the PAA, the declaration order and the management plan. The procedure was terminated pursuant to Art. 13 of the Regulation for Appropriate assessment.

- Investment proposal “Construction of a Hydro power plant at Bela reka River in the lands of Razlog”

In 2015 the MOEW did not approve the investment proposal for construction of a Hydro power plant at Bela reka river in the lands of Razlog, aimed at production of electricity. The proposal was found to be inadmissible in regards to the regimes of the national park, determined by the PAA, the declaration order and the management plan. The procedure was terminated pursuant to Art. 13 of the Regulation for Appropriate assessment.

V. Public access to the state of conservation report

The MOEW authorizes the World Heritage Centre to upload for public access, the State of conservation report of Pirin National Park World Heritage Property, elaborated in compliance with Decision: 38 COM 7B.73 of the World Heritage Committee on World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).

VI. Signature of the Authority


Ivelina Vassileva

Minister of environment and water