

## WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

IUCN TECHNICAL REVIEW

1. IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND NAME 225 PIRIN NATIONAL PARK
2. LOCATION: South-west Bulgaria, in the Pirin mountain range in the County of Blagoevgrad
3. NOMINATED BY: Research and Coordination Centre for Preservation and Restoration of the Environment

4. DOCUMENTATION:

- (i) Nomination form and map
- (ii) Supplementary documentation (IUCN)
  - a) Consultations: B. Kuzmanov; Dr. S. Nedialkov; Dr. Z. Kostova.
  - b) Committee on Environmental Protection. 1981. Protected Natural Sites in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Sofia Press, Sofia.
  - c) Institute of Cartography. 1979. Bulgaria Protected Natural Sites. (Map).

5. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Pirin National Park covers 27,400 ha of mountainous territory between 1,000 and 2,915 m; it is 60% forest covered, with a large number of endemic species of plants. Many of the plants are relicts of the Pleistocene Balkan flora. The area was heavily glaciated during the Pleistocene, but when the glaciers retreated, they left 70 glacial lakes behind; the site is an outstanding example of glacial geomorphology and accompanying flora and invertebrate fauna. (See attached data sheet for additional information).

6. INTEGRITY

As a high altitude site, the area is well defined ecologically. It is well protected by national legislation, including strict protection for the 1500 ha Bayuvi Dupki Nature Reserve and the 339 ha Malka Djindjeritsa Nature Reserve (see attached data sheets for additional information). The area has a management plan and is under an effective management regime.

7. COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS

This is the best site for expressing the endemic speciation in the Balkan limestone mountains, containing both Bulgarian and Balkan endemics; but since it was linked with the central and northern European floras during the glaciations, it developed an extremely rich flora which cannot be matched anywhere else.

## 8. EVALUATION

With its large number of endemic and relict species, Pirin provides an example of what the Pleistocene flora was like in the Balkans (criteria i). It is also an outstanding example of the continuing evolution of the native flora of this part of Europe (criteria ii) and contains dramatic limestone mountain scenery (criteria iii).

## 9. RECOMMENDATION

Pirin National Park meets criteria i, ii, and iii, and should be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

International Union for Conservation of  
Nature and Natural Resources

15 April 1983

SCHEME OF THE NATIONAL PARK „PIRIN“

