



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

THROUGH
MR. ANGUEL TCHOLAKOV
AMBASSADOR OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA TO FRANCE
PERMANENT DELEGATE TO UNESCO

TO
MECHTILD RÖSSLER
DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTER

Subject: State of conservation report of Pirin National Park (PNP) World Heritage Property (WHP) (Bulgaria) in implementation of Decision 40 COM 7B.93 of the World Heritage Committee

DEAR MRS. RÖSSLER,

In implementation of Decision 40 COM 7B.93 of the World Heritage Committee from its 40 session, held in Istanbul, Turkey (2016), please find attached the State of conservation report of Pirin National Park and World Heritage Property, elaborated in compliance with the indicative format for the submission of state of conservation reports by the States Parties.

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

Attachment: State of conservation report of PNP and WHP.

Sincerely yours,

NENO DIMOV

Minister of Environment and Water

ПОСОЛСТВО-ПАРИЖ
ЮНЕСКО

31838

54-00-123
17.08. 6

ОТКРИТА!
БЪРЗА!

U-01-84/16.08.2016

ДО: г-жа Ивелина Василева – министър на околната среда и водите

Копие до: МВнР – г-н Румен Александров – заместник-министър, ГДГВ,
дирекция „ПЧ“

*Относно: Официален окончателен вариант на решението за състоянието на
Национален парк „Пирин“*

Приложено изпращаме окончателния и официален вариант на решение 40СОМ 7В.93 от 40-та сесия на Комитета за световно наследство, засягащо състоянието на Национален парк „Пирин“ като обект на световното наследство на ЮНЕСКО. В писмото се напомня, че българската страна следва да изпрати нов доклад за състоянието на обекта на световно наследство до 1 декември 2017 г., който ще бъде включен в дневния ред на 42-та сесия на Комитета през 2018 г. Обръща се внимание и на въведения нов формуляр и изисквания при изпращане на националните доклади за състоянието на обектите (вж. допълнение 2 към писмото).

Приложение: съгласно текста – 1 бр.

1. Писмо ref9037_WHC to SP_SOC 40 COM_Pirin_02.08.2016 – 4 стр.

Париж, 16 август 2016 г.

Изготвила: Зорница Грекова, трети секретар

Одобрил: Сергей Тасев, временно управляващ



United Nations
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للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector
Division for Heritage

H. E. Mr Anguel Tcholakov
Ambassador of the Republic of
Bulgaria to France
Permanent Delegate of the
Republic of Bulgaria to UNESCO
UNESCO House

Ref.: CLT/HERWHC/EUR/16/9037

2 August 2016

Dear Ambassador,

As you are aware, at its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016), the World Heritage Committee examined the state of conservation of the following World Heritage property: "Pirin National Park".

You will find attached in Annex I, the Committee Decision **40 COM 7B.93**, concerning this property. In this Decision, the Committee requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of its recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

I would also like to recall that at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the Committee adopted a specific format for the submission of state of conservation reports by the States Parties. The compulsory format is included as Annex 13 of the *Operational Guidelines* and attached to this letter for ease of reference. It should be submitted in one of the working languages of the *Convention*, English or French (Decision **39 COM 7**). Please therefore use this format for the submission of the report on the aforementioned property.

Furthermore, I would like to call upon your authorities to do their utmost to comply with the above-mentioned statutory deadline for the submission of the report in order to ensure the best time available for dialogue between your authorities, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on the issues at stake before the next report to the Committee is produced.

Moreover, the Committee called on the State Party to invite in 2017 an IUCN Advisory mission to review the implementation of the Management Plan and the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

I would appreciate it if your authorities could provide us with an official invitation letter, indicating the suitable period of the mission and including the proposal of the mission programme and the terms of reference. Please note that, in conformity with paragraph 28 (f), the entire costs of Advisory missions are borne by the State Party inviting the mission.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued cooperation and support in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Please accept, dear Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

p.o. Jan Hlasik

Mechtild Rössler
Director of the World Heritage Centre
and Secretary to the World Heritage Committee

cc: National Commission of the Republic of Bulgaria for UNESCO
National Focal Points for World Heritage
IUCN

ANNEX I

World Heritage Committee 40th session (Istanbul, 2016)

Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)

Decision: 40 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.73**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 mission and requests the State Party to fully implement all pending recommendations;
4. Also welcomes the confirmation that the draft Management Plan for Pirin National Park will be subject to the procedures for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA), as requested in its Decision **38 COM 7B.73**, but notes with concern the conclusion of the Ministry of Environment and Water that the first draft of the Management Plan did not comply with the requirements set out by the Ministry and was therefore sent back for revision;
5. Notes the information provided by the State Party that all projects within the buffer zone of the property are subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and that the projects approved in 2014 and 2015 were mainly related to the maintenance of existing infrastructure and the enhancement of visitors' safety and of the quality of tourist services;
6. Considers that any future developments within the buffer zone of the property need to be guided through strategic planning, which can be achieved by strengthening the Management Plan through the procedures for SEA and also requests the State Party:
 - a) to ensure that the draft Management Plan is revised to comply with the requirements set out by the Ministry of Environment and Water and is evaluated through the procedures for SEAs,
 - b) to submit the Management Plan and the results of its evaluation through the procedures for SEA and AAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN,
 - c) to provide the World Heritage Centre information on other ongoing processes, that might affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
 - d) not to approve any further developments within the property or its buffer zone until the draft Management Plan has been subject to the procedures for SEA and AA;
7. Calls on the State Party to invite in 2017 an IUCN Advisory mission to review the implementation of the Management Plan and the preservation of the OUV of the property;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

ANNEX II

Format for the submission of state of conservation reports by the States Parties (Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines)

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)

1. Executive Summary of the report

[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

[Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

If the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Please also provide detailed information on the following:

a) Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee

[Note: please address each corrective measure individually, providing factual information, including exact dates, figures, etc.]

If needed, please describe the success factors or difficulties in implementing each of the corrective measures identified

b) Is the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose an alternative timeframe and an explanation why this alternative timeframe is required.

c) Progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value *[Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]*

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].

6. Signature of the Authority

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

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

I. Executive summary of the report

Some of the pending recommendations, given by the mission with experts from the World Heritage Center and IUCN held in Pirin National park World Heritage Property in 2011 are directly linked to the adoption of the new Management Plan (MP) of the national park, which admission procedure is currently blocked by court trails, related to the Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and Appropriate assessment (AA) procedure, and therefore no significant progress has been made.

For example the methodology for monitoring of the impact of skiing and other activities that take place within the buffer zone on the surrounding World Heritage Property is envisaged as priority activity in the draft MP but given the registered delay in the adoption of the MP it has not yet been developed.

In order to avoid further delays in the development and adoption of the methodology Pirin National park Directorate (PNPD) has already prepared a terms of reference for the elaboration of such document, which is planned to be funded by the Enterprise for management of environmental activities (a structure of the Ministry of environment and water - MOEW). We expect that at the time of the forthcoming Advisory mission with IUCN expert to be held in the Park we shall have clarity about the elaboration of the above mentioned methodology.

On the basis of an adopted MP of Pirin National Park, development and technical plans and projects could be elaborated, including Specialized development plans for the planned development of the buffer zone of the World Heritage Property (Bansko and Dobrinishte ski zones) with specific parameters and location of the facilities envisaged.

Pursuant to Bulgarian and European Union legislation, such plans and projects are subject to a SEA and AA procedures. Any particular investment proposal is also subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/or AA procedure.

In accordance with the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) and the commitment of the MOEW, with letter from 20.01.2017 in the Ministry was submitted a request for assessment of the necessity for carrying out of SEA on the draft MP of Pirin NP. The SEA and AA procedures are currently blocked because of on-going court trials. The court cases does not allow MOEW to finalize the procedure for further consideration and adoption of the MP.

With letter from 19.09.2017г. to the Director of the World Heritage Center the MOEW invited Advisory mission with expert from IUCN to be held in Pirin NP and WHP in implementation of decision 40 COM 7B.93 of the WHC from its 40 session in Istanbul (2016). The MOEW proposed as well the mission to be carried out in the period from 15 December 2017 to 15 March 2018 and currently we expect IUCN to determine an expert with whom to clarify the details related to the logistic and the program of the mission.

In the period 2016-2017 the MOEW did not approve significant projects and investment proposals in the Property and its buffer zone and respectively such were not realized.

During this period within the boundaries of the Property were approved and implemented insignificant investment proposals, related to the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities.

For the same period within the boundaries of the Buffer Zone of the WHP - Bansko ski zone were approved by the MOEW and were realized or are still in process of implementation insignificant investment proposals related to ensuring the functioning of existing facilities, ensuring the safety of the tourists, improving the quality of the offered services, as well as improving the state of the environment. The implementation of these investment proposals was carried out entirely within the boundaries of the buffer zone and is in line with the World Heritage Committee's decisions and in no way adversely affects the universal value of the World Heritage Property.

II. Response to the World Heritage Committee's Decision: 40 COM 7B.93 paragraph by paragraph

The World Heritage Committee,

II.1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,

II.2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.73, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

The Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) as institution in-charge for the management of Pirin NP and World Heritage Property also took note of document WHC/16/40.COM/7B and Decision 38 COM 7B.73, adopted at the 38th session of the WHC (Doha, 2014).

II.3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 mission and requests the State Party to fully implement all pending recommendations;

Some of the pending recommendations are linked to the adoption of the new Management Plan, which admission procedure is currently blocked by court cases, related to the Strategic environmental assessment and Appropriate assessment procedure, and therefore no significant progress has been made.

These are, in particular, the recommendations related to "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" as well as the preparation of detailed "Tourism Implementation Plans" for the Bansko and Dobrinishte buffer zones"

In implementation of the above recommendations the MOEW has planned to elaborate a methodology for monitoring the impact of skiing and other activities that take place within the buffer zone on the surrounding World Heritage Property. This methodology is envisaged as priority activity in the draft MP but given the registered delay in the adoption of the MP it has not yet been developed.

In order to avoid further delays in the development and adoption of the methodology the PNPD has already prepared a terms of reference for the elaboration of such document. The park administration envisage to apply in front of the Enterprise for management of environmental activities (a structure of the MOEW) in order to ensure funding for the elaboration of the document. We expect that at the time of the forthcoming Advisory mission with IUCN expert to be held in the Park (most probably in 2018) we shall have clarity about the elaboration of the above mentioned methodology.

As far as the "Tourism Implementation Plans for "Dobrinishte" and "Bansko" ski zones" are concerned these are practically Specialized development plans" (SDP). According to the specialized Bulgarian legislation - Protected Areas Act SDP are elaborated along with the Spatial Planning Act and obligatory have to comply with the regimes, determined by the management plans of the respective protected area – in this case Pirin NP.

This means that such plans could be developed if their projections are acceptable to the regimes introduced by Pirin NP MP.

As we have informed the Secretariat on the basis of an adopted MP of Pirin National Park, development and technical plans and projects could be elaborated, including SDP for the planned development of the buffer zone (Bansko and Dobrinishte ski zones) with specific parameters and location of the facilities envisaged.

Pursuant to Bulgarian and European Union legislation, such plans and projects are subject to a SEA and AA procedure. Any particular investment proposal is also subject to a procedure for the Environmental impact assessment (EIA) and/or AA.

Precisely through these procedures is guaranteed the exercise of control by the State (according to the Bulgarian and European legislation in the field of environmental protection) with a view to assessing the degree of impact on the environmental components, including biodiversity, respectively on Pirin NP and WHP in this case. On the basis of these assessments, the competent authority - MOEW may approve the proposed plans and investment proposals in the buffer zone Bansko and Dobrinishte.

II. 4. Also welcomes the confirmation that the draft Management Plan for Pirin National Park will be subject to the procedures for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as requested in its Decision 38 COM 7B.73, but notes with concern the conclusion of the Ministry of Environment and Water that the first draft of the Management Plan did not comply with the requirements set out by the Ministry and was therefore sent back for revision;

MOEW has already informed the Secretariat and IUCN that in compliance with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment transposed in the Environmental Protection Act, the MOEW shall conduct an assessment procedure of the necessity for carrying out of SEA and AA or the so called "screening".

As far as the referral of the draft MP to Pirin National park Directorate in 2016 for further consideration we would like to inform you that it was due to established procedural and substantive omissions with regard to the approved assignment, as well as remarks and comments which have not been reflected in the draft MP and which had been given in the course of the public discussions.

Eventually, with letter from 16.05.2016 a revised draft of the MP of "Pirin" NP was submitted to the MOEW for subsequent processing pursuant to the Protected areas Act and the Ordinance on the Development of Management Plans. The draft MP was carefully examined by MOEW for the proper reflection of the remarks in the plan. As conclusion it was established that the abovementioned remarks of the MOEW were correctly reflected.

In accordance with the recommendations of the WHC and the commitment of the Ministry of Environment and Water, with letter from 20.01.2017 in the ministry was submitted a request for assessment of the necessity for carrying out of SEA on the draft MP of Pirin NP. The procedure for assessing the necessity of SEA was expected to be completed in the beginning of March 2017, after which the draft MP had to be admitted for consideration by the Specialized Board of the Supreme Environmental Expert Council and then submitted for final adoption by the Council of Ministers of Republic of Bulgaria. The procedure had to be finalized by May 2017, including after the required public consultations and the co-ordination

procedure envisaged by the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers and its administration.

As mentioned above, the SEA and AA procedures are blocked because of court trials. The court cases which are still in progress does not allow the MOEW to finalize the procedure for further consideration and adoption of the MP.

II.5. Notes the information provided by the State Party that all projects within the buffer zone of the property are subject to Strategic Environmental Assessments (EIAs) and that the projects approved in 2014 and 2015 were mainly related to the maintenance of existing infrastructure and the enhancement of visitors' safety and of the quality of tourist services,;

MOEW confirms the already presented information that in the period 2014-2015 in the buffer zone of the Property were realized investment proposals related mainly to maintenance of the existing infrastructure, improvement of the safety of the visitors and the quality of the tourist services, as the construction of new ski runs and facilities was not allowed.

Each investment proposal was a subject to the corresponding procedures according to the Environment Protection Act (EPA) and the Biodiversity Conservation Act (BCA) and the respective regulations, before any action in their realization has been undertaken.

The acts with which are completed the procedures under the EPA and BCA and the respective regulations are the legal ground for the issuance of the respective permissions for realization of the investment proposals (for instance construction permit). This is an additional guarantee that the planned investment activities cannot be performed before the State provides control for compliance with the environmental protection legislation.

II. 6. Considers that any future developments within the buffer zone of the property need to be guided through strategic planning, which can be achieved by strengthening the Management Plan through the procedures for SEA and also requests the State Party:

a) to ensure that the draft Management Plan is revised to comply with the requirements set out by the Ministry of Environment and Water and is evaluated through the procedures for SEAs,

Information about the implementation of this commitment of the MOEW is presented in point II. 4 of this report.

b) to submit the Management Plan and the results of its evaluation through the procedures for SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, ,

As mentioned above, the MP has not been approved at this point as the SEA and AA procedures have been blocked by court cases. The MOEW declares that it will fulfill this commitment in due time after the end of the procedure for adoption of the MP. See the information under item e)

c) to provide the World Heritage Centre information on other ongoing processes, that might affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,

The WH Center will be informed in case of on-going processes that might affect the OUV of the Property.

d) not to approve any further developments within the property or its buffer zone until the draft Management Plan has been subject to the procedures for SEA and AA;

MOEW has not approved developments within the Property or its buffer zone.

e) calls on the State Party to invite in 2017 an IUCN advisory mission to review the implementation of the Management Plan and the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property.

With letter from 19.09.2017r. to the Director of the World Heritage Center the MOEW has invited Advisory mission with expert from IUCN to be held in Pirin NP and WHP in implementation of decision 40 COM 7B.93 of the WHC from its 40 session in Istanbul (2016).

Given the objective delay in the procedure for adoption of the draft MP of Pirin NP, the MoEW proposed as subject of the mission - the review of the draft MP of Pirin NP (not the final MP) as well as the preservation of the Outstanding universal value of the Property.

The MOEW proposed as well the mission to be carried out in the period from 15 December 2017 to 15 March 2018 and currently we expect IUCN to determine an expert with whom to clarify the details related to the logistic and the program of the mission. A draft program has been also sent to the Secretariat.

II. 7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

The current report is in fulfillment of § 7 from decision of Decision: 40 COM 7B.93 of the WHC.

III. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party

Conservation issues related to the protection and conservation status of the Property have not been registered.

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.

In the period 2016-2017 the MOEW did not approve significant projects and investment proposals in the Property and its buffer zone, respectively such have not been realized.

During this period within the boundaries of the Property were approved and implemented insignificant investment proposals (IP), related to the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. The investment proposals realized within the Property are as follows:

- Construction of a fence of zone I of the Sanitary-Protection Zone (SPZ) around a water source for drinking water supply of the town of Dobrinishte - catchment of the river Disilitsa

The IP is in compliance with the requirements of the Water Act for SPZ fences. The IP is currently underway. When implementing the IP, a permanent fence with a height of 1.4 m will be made in zone I of the SPZ around the water source.

- Construction of a solar hot water system for the needs of "Yavorov" chalet on the rooftop of building

The IP was implemented on the rooftop of "Yavorov" chalet. With the construction of the installation will be saved up to 60% on average a year of the required energy for heating of household hot water for the chalet.

- Construction of fish passes facilities and equipment for ensuring of ecological outflow after existing water catchments of Sandanska Bistritsa Cascade

The IP is currently underway. The fish passes are built within existing facilities /catchments/. The implementation of the IP is in implementation of a measure in a Management plan of a river basin (2016-2021).

- Reconstruction of the existing “Koncheto” shelter in Pirin National Park

The IP has not been implemented. The IP will be implemented in the Vlahenski lakes area in the alpine part of Northern Pirin, at 2750 m above sea level. The shelter was built in 1953 and is technically outdated.

The IP will involve the dismantlement of parts of the old shelter of 7sq. m and a ready-made module will be installed. The IP implementation will not lead to a change in the built-up unfolded area, the reconstruction being carried out on the existing foundation. No new infrastructure will be built.

In the period 2016-2017 the MOEW did not approve significant projects and investment proposals related to reconstruction and/or construction of new facilities – ski runs, cable lifts and buildings, respectively such have not been realized within the boundaries of the Buffer zone of the Property /ski areas Bansko and Dobrinishte/. Within the boundaries of the Buffer Zone - Bansko Ski Zone were approved by the MOEW and were realized or are in process of implementation insignificant investment proposals related to ensuring the functioning of existing facilities, ensuring the safety of tourists and improving the quality of the offered services, as well as improving the state of the environment. The implementation of these investment proposals was carried out entirely within the boundaries of the buffer zone of the Property and is in line with the World Heritage Committee's decisions and in no way adversely affects the universal value of the World Heritage Property. The concrete investment proposals are the following:

- Reconstruction of existing base station of GSM operator located in “Shiligarnika” area

The investment proposal has been realized. The reconstruction includes adding of new equipment to the existing premises and replacing some of the existing antennas.

- Repair of an artificial snowmaking system at ski run No 7 “Stara Kotva”

The IP has been implemented. The IP aimed at repairing the pipeline laid on the terrain. A certain damage required the replacement of the existing pipe with a new one. The section where the repair was carried out falls entirely within an existing ski run.

After the placement of the new pipe the terrain was grassed with native species.

The parts of the old pipe were transported outside the park.

- Relocation of an operator booth at ski lift “Detska Kotva”

The investment proposal has been implemented. Its purpose was to prevent accidents with skiers. The operator booth at the ski lift “Detska Kotva” was moved from the route of ski run No 8 “Yulen” (children's ski run) and was placed at the eastern side of the existing ski drag. The built-up area of the new operator booth is the same as the old one - 10 sq. m.

- Construction of a protective insurmountable fence at ski run No 2 “Banderitsa”

The IP is underway. The IP aimed at constructing of a protective facility to separate ski run No 2 “Banderitsa” from a dangerous, steep, off-piste avalanche section to prevent accidents.

The safety facility is 1.50 m high and 420 m long, without a solid concrete base, made of wood - basic wooden stakes and transverse wooden boards.

- Construction of a protective insurmountable fence between ski runs No 3 "Plateau 1" and No 2 "Banderitsa"

The IP has not been implemented. The aim of the IP is to isolate a dangerous, steep, avalanche-affected section from entering of skiers and tourists.

The safety facility should be constructed from the northern end of ski run No 3 "Plateau 1" to the eastern end of ski run No 2 "Banderitsa". It will be 275 m long and 1.50 m high without a solid concrete base, made of wood - basic wooden stakes and transverse wooden boards.

- Reinforcement of section a3 (ledge) on Ski Run 1

The IP has been implemented. The objective of the IP was to rehabilitate a steep slope of high erosion potential, collapse and sliding of stones and trees to ensure the safety and health of visitors.

During the IP implementation, the upper edge of the slope was smoothed in a 2-3 m wide strip by removing overhanging earth mass and removing of tree vegetation in a strip 172 m long and 6 m wide from the edge of the ledge, in order to relieve the load on the edge of the slope that the trees carry with their weight and wind shake. The steep slope of the ravine was covered with anchored mesh, coconut erosion control blanket and a hydroseeding with herb mixtures on an area of 3304 sq. m. The damaged gabions at the base of the ravine were reinforced with a 140 m long anchored wooden retaining wall, occupying an area of 70 sq. m.

- Construction of a scrape pit to collect wastewater for the needs of an existing building located in the "Ikrishte" area

The IP has not been implemented. The facility will be 5 x 5 m in size and will be located at a distance of 10 m from the building.

- Recultivation after the implementation of investment proposal for Reconstruction of the "Todorka 3"-seat chair lift

Recultivation activities are in process of implementation. The recultivation project was developed in compliance with a condition set in a position of the MOEW with goal to restore the integrity of the landscape and the vegetation communities in the damaged terrains as a result of the implementation of an investment proposal and to limit the development of erosion processes.

Technical and biological recultivation have been implemented. The activities are planned to be carried out for a period of five years. The main activities will be implemented for three summer seasons.

- Partial reconstruction and construction of a vertical platform lift at the upper station of Gondola Lift "Bansko - Banderishka Polyana"

The IP has not been implemented. The goal of IP is to build a vertical platform lift at the upper station of the gondola lift in Bansko - Banderishka Polyana to facilitate the work of rescue teams and the transportation of injured people to the level at which the gondola lift leaves for the town of Bansko.

The construction of the lift will be fully realized at the constructed and exploited building of the upper station of Bansko - Banderishka Polyana cableway, located in the Bansko ski zone. The IP implementation will not change the built-up area of the upper station of the Bansko - Banderishka Polyana cableway.

- Correction of the route of ski run No 4 "Balkaniada" in the sections with elevation 2100-2050 m and elevation 1900 m above sea level

The IP has been implemented.

The adjustment of the route of the ski run No 4 "Balkaniada" was required because of the safety of skiers. The realization of the investment proposal in the section between elevation 2100 m and elevation 2050 m above sea level affected an area with length of 75 m and average width of 3-4 m with total area of 279 sq. m. In the section at elevation 1900 m, was accomplished alignment of the terrain with length of 62 m, an average width of 4 m and a total area of 276 sq. m. In the same section of the adjustment at elevation about 1900 m, a snow-making device was relocated in order to ensure the safety of this area. The shaft was relocated at the very end of the track of the "Balkaniada" ski run.

- Correction of the terrain of ski run No 15 "Chalino Valog" 2 in the section between elevation 1375 m and elevation 1360 m

The IP has been implemented. The adjustment of ski run No 15 "Chalino Valog 2" in the section between elevation 1375 m and 1360 m aimed at ensuring of smoother transition from the steep to the flat section of the track in order to guarantee the safety of skiers.

During the realization of the investment proposal was affected an area of approximately 300 sq. m.

- Rehabilitation of a ravine of section A1 to ski trail "Bansko - Banderishka Polyana" (section A1)

The IP has not yet started. The objective of the IP is to rehabilitate the ramp to section A1 of Ski run 1, thereby protecting the users of the ski trail from falling stones, demolition and sliding of trees and rhizomes, as well as terminating erosion processes.

The IP envisages smoothing of the upper edge of the slope in a 2-3 m wide strip by removing the overhanging earth mass and removing of tree vegetation in a strip of 112 m in length and 5 m in width with a total area of 528 sq.m in order to release the load on the edge that the trees carry with their weight and wind shake. The slopes are not significant and will be levelled and grassed with a hydroseeding on an area of 1339 sq. m.

- Investment proposal for "Reconstruction of a bridge at elevation 1143.55 m located in "Ovinache" area

The realization of the IP has not begun. The IP activities include reconstruction of the existing facility - bridge as the existing wooden platform will be replaced by a reinforced concrete slab that will be placed on the existing beams. Due to high water impact, the bridge construction will be lifted by 1.2 m, by upgrading the existing foundations, which will also be tested for additional load.

- Installation of safety facilities in sections a1, a3 and 3 at ski trail "Bansko - Banderishka Polyana" (Piste 1)

The IP implementation is currently underway. The objective of the IP is to ensure maximum safety and to protect winter sports practitioners from incidents. The main ground for the IP implementation is the need to secure a part of the route against a possible danger for the users of the ski trail to fall into the river and undergo incidents with possible serious consequences.

The IP foresaw the installation of cross-board stakes in three sections of the ski trail, a1, a3 and a3, of a length of about 80 m for each section and a height of 2 m.

V. Public access to the state of conservation report

The MOEW does not object the State of conservation report of Pirin National Park World Heritage Property to be uploaded for public access on World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).

VI. Signature of the Authority



Neno Dimov

Minister of environment and water