

### Annex 3: Framework for reporting identified practices

	Section	Risk Evaluation
1	Title of the practice	<b>Measures against spatial risks in the protected areas of Natural Park “Bulgarka”</b>
2	Precise theme/ issue tackled by the practice	<b>NATURA 2000 plan for the management of the protected zone in Natural Park “Bulgarka”, project for protection against landslides and erosion</b>
3	Objectives of the practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> To achieve compliance with all relevant European Union legislation and directives, including the EU Directive 92/43 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and the EU Directive 79/409 on the conservation of wild birds.</li> <li> To identify, map, evaluate and assign protection of species and habitats in Nature Park “Bulgarka” against different risks like fires, landslides, floods, droughts, etc.</li> <li> To restrict the active erosion processes in the Nature park and their destructive power over the flora and fauna species</li> <li> To provide information to citizens and encourage them to protect environment</li> </ul>
4	Location	The <b>Bulgarka Natural Park</b> is a Bulgarian nature park located on the northern slopes of the Balkan Mountains, occupying 22,000 hectares of territory in central and eastern part of Stara Planina between the cities of Gabrovo and Kazanluk
5	Detailed description of the practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> The protected area under NATURA 2000 covers the whole territory of the Natural Park. 80,2% of the total area is covered with forests and more precisely beech forests – about 60%. The risk of forest fires is the most outstanding.</li> <li> Only the directive for natural habitats of flora and fauna is observed. For the directive about birds the European Court has to make a decision whether the Zone Buffer Central Balkan (of which Bulgarka Natural Park belonged in the past) shall be a NATURA 2000 protected zone. This happens because the Bulgarian Association for Bird Protection developed the criteria for protected zones before the Park was established in 2002 and was part of the Buffer Central Balkan Zone. Now this zone and the Natural Park of Rila Mountain are claimed to be protected by environmental organizations.</li> <li> The Plan for management of the protected zone is being</li> </ul>

		<p>developed now by World Wild Fund in cooperation with the local management team of Natural Park “Bulgarka”. <b>What’s done so far:</b> terrain researches, mapping and evaluation of the habitats’ condition are being carried out. 19 habitats were identified. 4 of them are priority habitats according to Directive <b>92/43/EEC</b>. Mapping of rare species with GPS coordinates has been conducted. <b>What is to happen:</b> 4 public discussions about the measures for the management of the protected zone; Having the whole management plan drafted by the end of October 2010. The whole process took about 3 years since the proposal for the approval of the protected area by the European Commission was registered in March 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌱 Development and implementation of the project “Restoration of habitats and bio-diversity on the territory of Bulgarka Natural Park”. Its main objective is stopping an erosive landslide and biological recultivation on the territory of the Park. The slopes of a hill used as a stone-pit are very erosive and the flora on them has been devastated. The landslide filled up a karst lake in its foothills. It threatens 6 protected flora species and 4 fauna species protected by different regimes. The project envisages the strengthening of the sliding slopes by means of three-dimensional polymer geo-net and reinforced structures, terraces with stone thresholds, etc. Geodesic monitoring shall be done periodically for maintaining good condition of the landslide. Hydro sowing seeds shall be used for the recultivation of the slope and the rest of the terrain will be prepared for growing new vegetation. The project is financed under the Environment Operative Programme.</li> <li>👥 Educational and informational programmes and campaigns for people of different ages to teach them which the protected species are and how to protect forests against fires</li> </ul>
6	Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🌱 Bulgarka park is the latest nature park registered in Bulgaria but its whole territory is protected under NATURA 2000</li> <li>🌱 New methods for protection of habitats on the territory of the park are to come into force with the approval of the Plan for management of the protected zone from October 2010</li> </ul>

7	Lessons learnt from the practice	 Active participation of environmental NGOs and citizens in whole process of acknowledging the protected zone turned to be of key importance for the work done in the protected zone
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9	Other possible interesting information	<a href="http://www.ppbulgarka.net">www.ppbulgarka.net</a>