Republic of North Macedonia
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

North Macedonia's Process towards the 7th National Report

Isuf FETAI
Advisor for Nature Protection

18 October 2025
Malaga

Legislative frameworks

The Law on Nature Protection ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 67/04, 14/06, 84/07, 35/10, 47/11, 148/11, 59/12, 13/13, 163/13, 41/14, 146/15, 39/16, 63/16,113/18 and 151/21

A new law on Nature – Fully approximate with EU Habitats and Bird Directives, on procedure for adoption, where **draft sub-laws in relation od Natura 2000 were developed**

New CITES law on preparation

National Strategy for Nature Protection and Action Plan (2017- 2027) adopted by the Government 2018

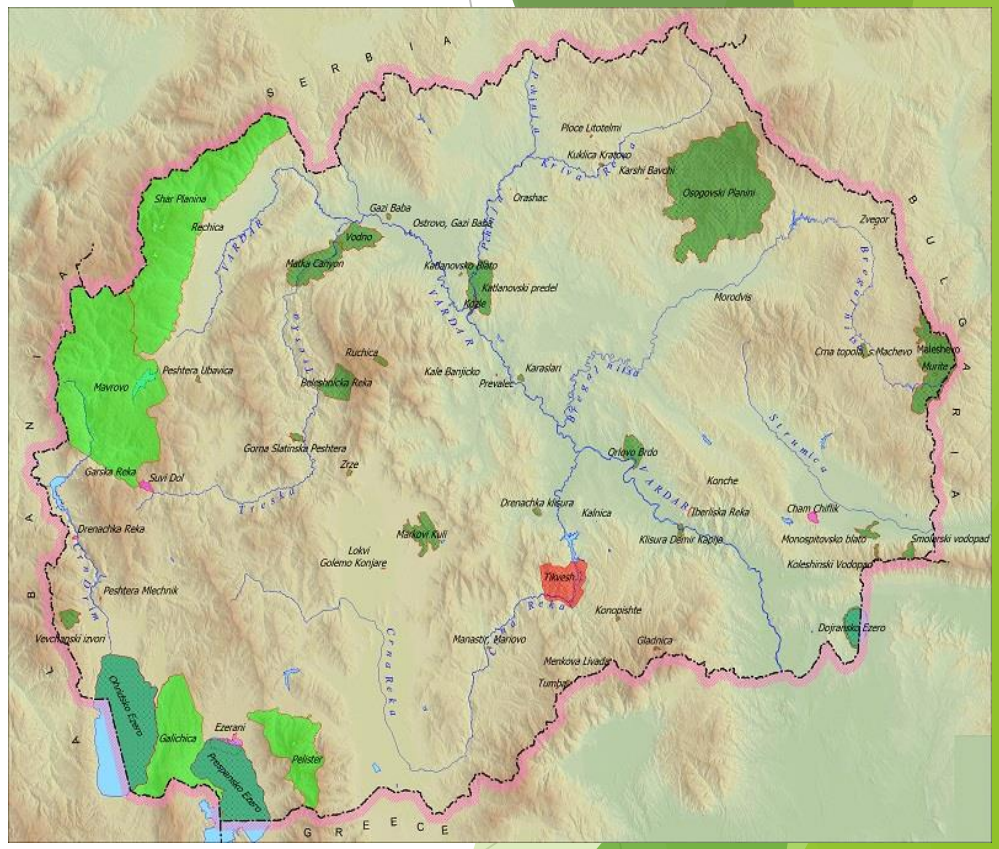
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2023) expired - new on prperatory phase full harmonized with CBD Global Biodiversity framework



North Macedonia's legislative framework for nature protection is being modernised and fully aligned with EU directives, while new strategic documents—including the updated NBSAP—are being prepared in line with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Recent development regarding Protected Areas

- **13.9 %** protected area in the country
- **3 new PA was proclaimed** in past years: NP Sara Mounutan, PL Osogovski planini and PA Malesevo
- National parks cover **about 6.91% of the country's territory,** followed by **nature monuments with 3.0%,** while all other categories of protected areas cover about **4.01%** of the country's territory.
- 6 new laws for re-proclamation for a as a protected area ready for proecedure where **the percentage of protected areas at the national level is expected to increase.**



North Macedonia has recently expanded its protected areas, now covering **13.9% of the country**, with new national parks and planned re-proclamations that will further increase this percentage

PROTECTED AREAS WITH INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS

- List of World Heritage of UNESCO
  - Lake OHRID (1979/1980) Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region
  - Dlaboka Reka (NP Mavrovo) (2021) Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests

- Tentative list of UNESCO
  - SP Markovi kuli (2004)
  - SP Cave Slatinski Source (2004)

- Site List of Ramsar Convention
  - Prespa Lake (1995)
  - Dojran Lake (2007)
  - Ohrid lake and studnecisko blato (2021)

- Biosphere Reserve Prespa - Ohrid, UNESCO (2014)

- Geo parks - new initiatives

North Macedonia hosts several internationally recognized protected areas—including UNESCO World Heritage sites, Ramsar wetlands, and the Prespa-Ohrid Biosphere Reserve—reflecting the country's high global conservation value

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Global Geoparks

EU Screening process - Analytical examination of compliance with EU - done 2023

Cluster 4 - Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity
Chapter 27 - Environment and climate change
Group - Nature

- ZOO Directive
- Regulation on nature restoration
- Habitat Directive
- Birds Directive
- Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) & Nagoja Protovol
- Council Regulation on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade CITES
- Trade in seal products
- FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber - MAFW
- Timber Regulation - MAFW
- Leghold traps- MAFW

In 2023, North Macedonia completed the EU screening for Chapter 27, providing a detailed assessment of our alignment with key EU nature directives and regulations, which now serves as the technical basis for future accession negotiations

The EU screening is a formal and technical operation carried out by the European Commission, in order to prepare the negotiations for membership and is an analytical presentation of the situation in the candidate country about the chapters of EU law.



International Conventions & Agreements – Nature Protection

- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
Ratified: *Official Gazette 54/97*
- **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**
Ratified:*2005*
- **Ramsar Convention – Wetlands of International Importance**
Ratified: *1977*
- **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS – Bonn Convention)**
Ratified: *1999*
- **MoU on Conservation of Middle-European Population of Great Bustard (Otis tarda)**
Signed: *2000*
- **Bern Convention – Conservation of European Wildlife & Habitats**
Ratified: *1997*

- **World Heritage Convention (UNESCO)**
Ratified: 1977
- **CITES – Trade in Endangered Species**
Ratified: *1999*
- **European Landscape Convention (Florenc**
Ratified: *2003*

EUROBATS – Agreement on Bat Protection in Europe
Ratified: *1999*
Amendment ratified: *2002*
AEWA – African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement
Ratified: *1999*

North Macedonia has been a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 1997, and the CBD serves as the central international framework guiding all our national efforts in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and access and benefit-sharing.
The Convention provides not only the legal basis, but also the methodological and strategic orientation for our national biodiversity planning, including the development of our NBSAP and the preparation of national reports.

North Macedonia's Process Towards the 7th National Report to the CBD

- • North Macedonia relies on GEF & UNEP support as a developing country.
  • Administrative procedures for mobilizing funds & selecting partners took





As a developing country, North Macedonia depends largely on international financial and technical assistance for the preparation of strategic biodiversity documents such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the National Reports to the CBD. Due to procedural delays within the implementing agencies of UNEP — particularly in contracting national partners — the country could not start this process earlier. However, we are now fully on track through a new project that officially started in October 2025.

Launch of the GBF-EAS Project

- • Launched in October 2025.
  • Full title: “Implementation of Early Actions for Alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF-EAS)”
  • Funded

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In October 2025, North Macedonia launched the project entitled “Implementation of Early Actions for Alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF-EAS)”, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNEP, with national coordination by the Ministry of Environment and the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES). This project represents our first structured step towards aligning national biodiversity planning with the Kunming–Montreal GBF and preparing the ground for the 7th National Report.

Project Objectives



•Review & alignment of NBSAP 2018–2023 with GBF targets.
•Development of new national biodiversity targets (2026–2035).
•Strengthening institutional & technical capacities (monitoring, data, BIOFIN, PES).

The project has three main objectives:
1.Review and alignment of the previous NBSAP (2018–2023) with the GBF 2030 targets, including an analysis of achievements, gaps, and lessons learned.
2. Development of new national biodiversity targets (2026–2035), harmonized with the GBF goals (A–D) and structured to address issues such as habitat restoration, protected areas, invasive species, and sustainable use.
3. Strengthening institutional and technical capacities, particularly in relation to biodiversity monitoring, data management, and sustainable financing mechanisms such as BIOFIN and PES.

Next Steps

- National consultations to identify draft national targets.
- Drafting the new NBSAP (2026–2035).
- Preparation of the 7th National Report based on the new framework.
- Goal: both documents ready before the next CBD COP.

The first national consultations have already begun, focusing on the identification of draft national targets that will form the basis of the new NBSAP (2026–2035). Once this strategy is finalized, the country will move directly toward the preparation of the 7th National Report, using the new structure, targets, and indicators as the core framework. Our objective is that by the time of the next CBD COP, North Macedonia will be ready with both the new GBF-aligned NBSAP and the Seventh National Report.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION

www.moepp.gov.mk

www.natura2000.gov.mk

http://redlist.moepp.gov.mk

habitatnakarta.moepp.gov.mk

