

Nature oriented farming in grassland and agriculture in Bulgaria



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Content

- ❑ AGROLINK activities
- ❑ SAPARD
- ❑ Rural Development Plan 2007-2013
- ❑ NGOs projects for Conservation of globally important biodiversity

Organic farming and biodiversity



- ❑ European network on Biodiversity in Agriculture and peasant farming

- ❑ Local varieties and breeds
- ❑ Biodiversity on (organic) farms



ЖИВА

број 3, есен 2005, цена 2.50 лв.

Агролинк
www.agrolink.org

Списание на Сдружение АГРОЛИНК
за органично земеделие,
природата и хората

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Агролинк
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Списание за биологично земеделие,
природата и хората

ЗЕМ

тема на броя

органично тор

ЖИВА

број 3, есен 2006, цена 2.50 лв.

Агролинк
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Списание за биологично земеделие,
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ЗЕМЯ

тема на броя

биологично животновъдство



Magazine Zhiva Zemja-
Living Earth

Publications (cont.)

- Guidelines for farmers, specialists and environmentalists
 - Organic farming. Step by step
 - How to make compost
 - Improving Biodiversity on organic farms – whole management plan for farms
 - Best Farming Practices
- Surveys for policy makers and NGOs
 - Relationship between biodiversity, agriculture and nature protection etc

Lobbying and advocacy



- ❑ Legislation on agri-environmental measures
- ❑ National Action Plan on organic farming

- ❑ SAPARD Monitoring Committee
- ❑ Coalition of NGOs - Save our Nature

Training and education



□ Training center with demo farm – 3 ha

SAPARD Agri-environmental measures – 199 projects - 2007



Organic farming





Seminatural habitats

Rare breeds





Anti- erosion

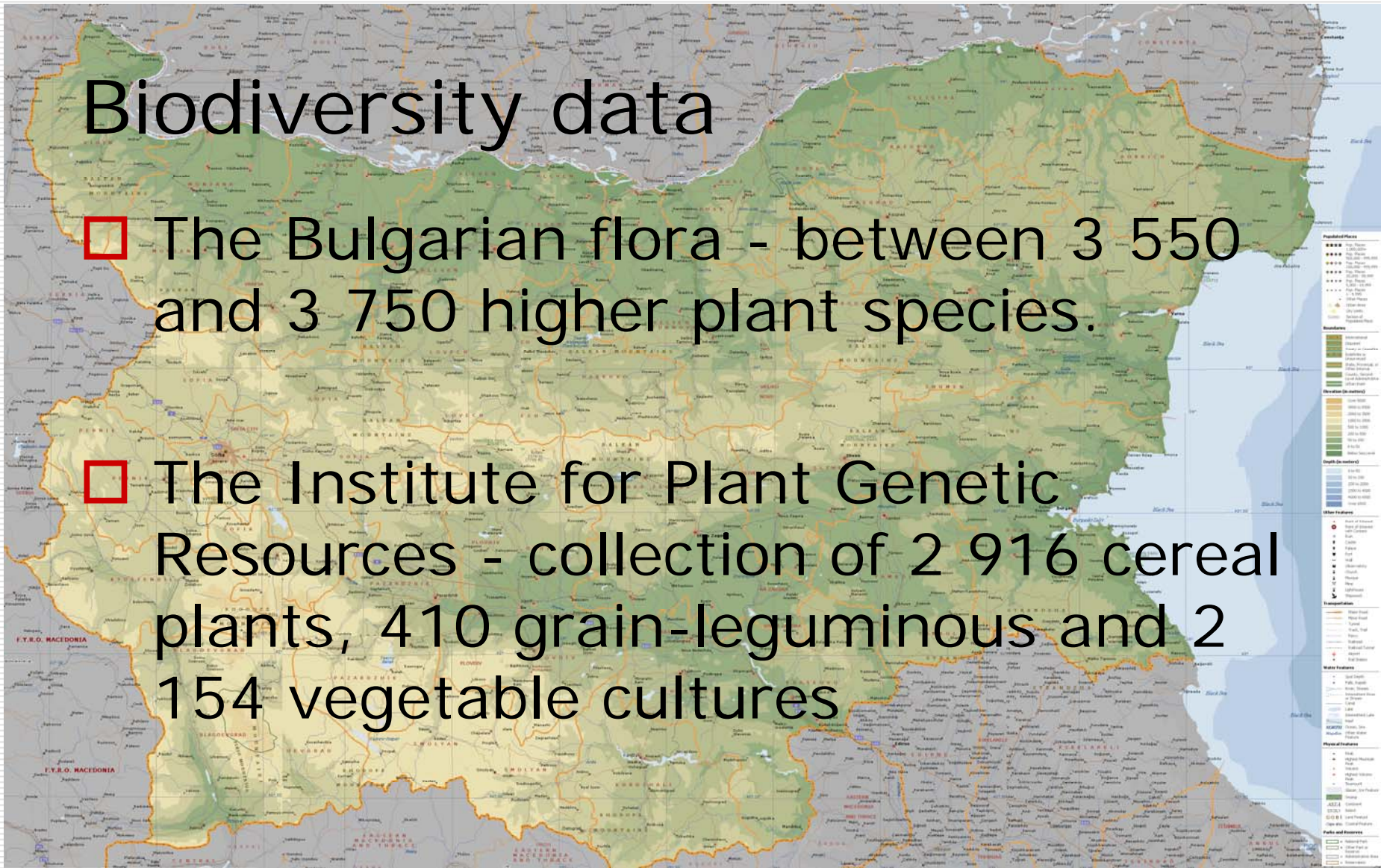
National Rural Development Plan 2007-2013

A vibrant meadow with tall green grasses, yellow buttercups, blue forget-me-nots, and purple spikes of flowers. The scene is a lush, natural landscape with a variety of wildflowers in full bloom. The purple flowers are tall and spike-like, while the yellow and blue flowers are smaller and more numerous. The background is a dense field of green grass and more flowers, creating a rich, textured scene.

Biodiversity data

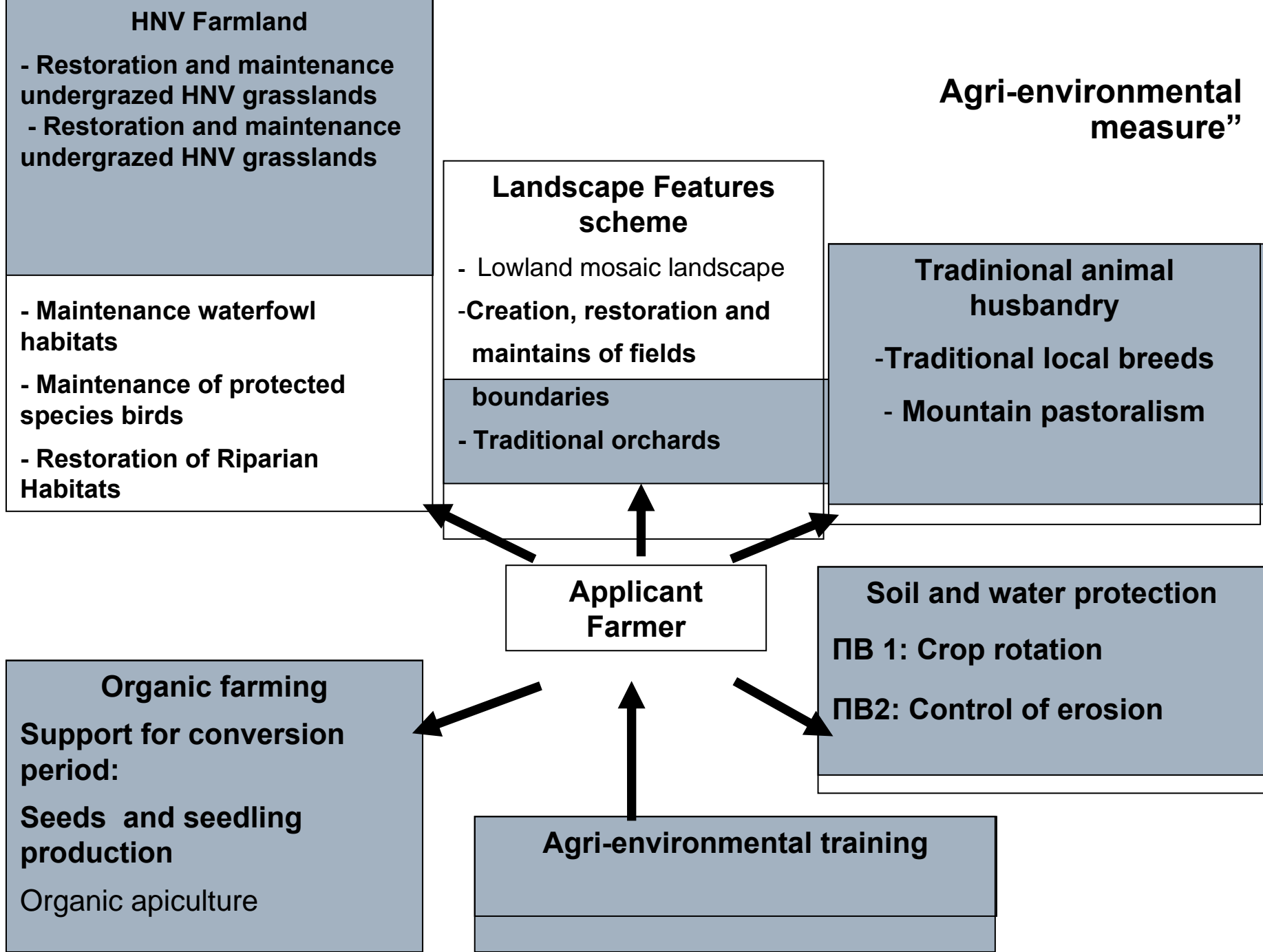
□ The Bulgarian flora - between 3 550 and 3 750 higher plant species.

□ The Institute for Plant Genetic Resources - collection of 2 916 cereal plants, 410 grain-leguminous and 2 154 vegetable cultures



- ❑ All 37 typical Bulgarian animal breeds have been endangered during the last several decades
- ❑ 6 are irreversibly extinct,
- ❑ 12 are almost extinct,
- ❑ 16 are endangered
- ❑ 3 are potentially endangered.





Natural Handicap Payments to Farmers in Mountain Areas

- 0.5 – 50.0 ha – 100 €
 - above 50.0 – 100.0 - 40 €
 - above 100.0 - 0 €
-

Payments to Farmers in Areas with Handicaps, Other Than Mountain Areas

Hectares	€/hectare
□ 1.0 – 100.0	- 50
□ For the part above 100.0 – 200.0	- 20
□ For the part above 200.0	- 0

The agri-environmental measures – starting in 2008

- Organic farming:
 - Organic farming;
 - Organic apiculture;
- Restoration and maintenance of high nature value (HNV) agriculture lands:
 - Restoration and maintenance of undergrazed HNV grasslands;
 - Restoration and maintenance of overgrazed HNV grasslands;
- Landscape features:
 - Maintenance of traditional orchards;
- Traditional livestock breeding:
 - Preservation of traditional local breeds;
 - Mountain pastoralism;
- Soil and water protection:
 - Crop rotation for soil and water protection;
 - Control of soil erosion in catchments.

Organic farming payment rates (EUR/ha/annum)

- ❑ Arable crops, incl. fodder crops – 155 EUR/ha
 - ❑ Pasture and meadows – 101EUR/ha
 - ❑ Vegetable crops (including cultivated mushrooms and potatoes- 357 EUR/ha
 - ❑ perennials, orchards and vineyards including roses – 418 EUR/ha
 - ❑ Essential oil and medicinal crops – 267 EUR/ha
 - ❑ Payment for one bee family – 15 EUR/family
 - ❑ For seed and propagation material – 20% more than the compensatory payment for each crop
-

HNV grassland payment rates (EUR/ha/annum)

- Restoration and maintenance of undergrazed HNV grasslands; HNV 1 – 131 EUR/ha
 - Restoration and maintenance of overgrazed HNV grasslands HNV 2 – 155 EUR/ha
-

Soil erosion control

- ❑ Crop strips 32 EUR/ha
 - ❑ Grassy buffer strips - 27 EUR/ha
 - ❑ Run-off holding furrows -26 EUR/ha
 - ❑ Antierosion practices in vineyards and orchards - 103 EUR/ha
 - ❑ Conversion of arable land to pasture – 207 EUR/ha
 - ❑ Practices for improvement of pastures – 51 EUR/ha
 - ❑ Creation of terraces -205 EUR/ha
-

Traditional livestock breeding

- ❑ Cattle – 200 EUR /head
 - ❑ Sheep and goats – 25 EUR/head
 - ❑ Swine – 61 EUR/head
 - ❑ Horse – 200 EUR/head
-

Traditional Shepherd Systems (Mountain Pastoralism)

- ❑ 150 EUR/head per cattle and horses
 - ❑ 20 EUR/ head per sheep and goat
-

Natura 2000

- Removal of undesired vegetation (evasive species: juniper in the mountain pastures /meadows; bushes in lowland areas) after the end of July, i.e. maintaining the meadows and the pastures in good agro-environmental condition

102 Euro

Natura 2000 – investment payment

- Creating and restoration of landscape features (field margins, hedgerows, small bushes, coppice, solitary trees (including dead or dying), stone walls, windbreaks/tree lines, other natural vegetation

307 Euro

Bird friendly activities - Compensatory payment

- Mowing from the centre of the parcel to both sides of wet grasslands, pasture, at a low speed

20 Euro

Pastures at about 2500 m



AGROLINK & Monastery St Kozma and Damiyan





- 75 ha forestry
 - 48 ha grasslands
-

73 buffalos



□ Before



□ Now



□ Before



□ Now





□ Organic yogurt and cheese

□ Undergrazing measure

□ Mountain pasturalism

□ Natura 2000



Conservation of globally important biodiversity
in HNV semi-natural grasslands through
support for the traditional local economy

BSPB – Bird Life Bulgaria

Project goal:

- Ensure long-term conservation of the high nature value grasslands of Bulgaria

Project Objective:

- Mainstream grasslands biodiversity concerns into Bulgaria's agricultural policy in order to reverse negative changes caused by unsustainable grazing, abandonment and land conversion
-

Project strategy

Remove barriers to conservation of HNV grasslands by:

- ❑ demonstrating the viability of agri - environmental measures for preservation of high nature value grasslands;
- ❑ mainstreaming the piloted agri - environmental schemes for HNV grasslands into national policy making
- ❑ disseminating the lessons and experience learned

Ponor

Total area 29 000 ha

Grasslands, pastures, meadows and transitional woodland –
19,949 ha

140 bird species, 50 with European importance, 38 included in
Annex II of the Biodiversity Act

Ponor is of global importance for the corncrake

Main threat - undergrazing



Besaparski Hills

Total area – 14,960 ha

Grasslands, pastures, meadows and transitional woodland – 6,123 ha

86 nesting bird species, 43 with European importance

Of global importance for the imperial eagle

Main threat – land conversion



Project Activities

- Biodiversity management plans for pilot sites
 - A pilot agri-environmental scheme for encouraging farmers to adopt more biodiversity friendly land management practices in the selected HNV grasslands
 - detailed Agri-environmental plan for each site
 - Disbursement of the agrienvironmental payments to farmers through AEPU)/MAC
-

Project Activities

- Grassland eco-label and eco-products outlet
 - Ecological and production standards
 - Monitoring protocols
 - Business and marketing plan for eco-label
 - Development of an accreditation plan
 - Training and further road map
 - Business plan for eco-products outlet
 - Identify potential investors (EBRD, commercial banks)
 - Start implementation
-

Project Activities linked to policy development

- ❑ Establishment of an Agri-Environmental Policy Unit and Mobile Advisory Centre
 - ❑ Advertising Agrienvironmental Plan to local farmers pro-actively
 - ❑ Disbursement of the scheme according to the designed procedure
 - ❑ Monitoring of the scheme as prescribed by the Biodiversity Management Plan
 - ❑ Direct dissemination of results and lessons learnt from the two pilot areas to selected HNV grassland areas in Bulgaria; feedback to NARDP
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Restoration of Long-Distance Transhumance in Eastern Bulgaria, as a Traditional and Nature-friendly Practice



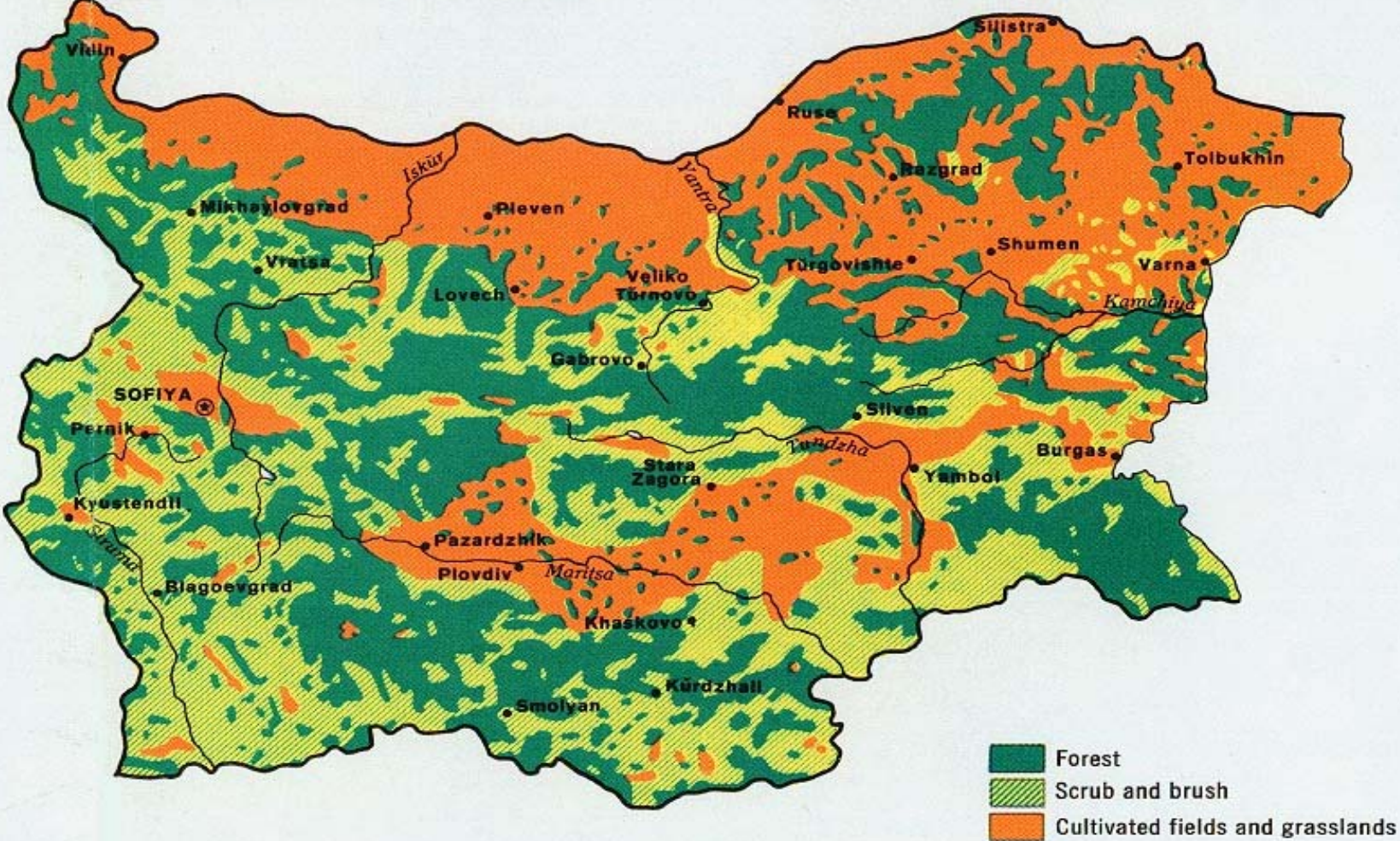
□ Fund for wild flora and fauna

- the Transhumance - more economically effective and with highest nature conservation importance.



- Imperial Eagle, Lesser Kestrel, European Soudlik Saker Falcon—*Vulnerable* in IUCN Red list - highly dependent on the existence of open habitats that are well grazed, the diversity of plants and insects is high.

LAND UTILIZATION





- ❑ Attracting farmers in extensive breeding of sheep, goats and cattle;
 - ❑ Studying of traditional transhumance paths;
 - ❑ Organizing transhumance of FWFF sheep and goats herd (by track or on food) to the winter pastures of Eastern Rodopi and back to the summer pastures of Kotel Mountain;
 - ❑ support the vultures' colony in Eastern Rodopi with additional potential food;
-

Activities



- ❑ “A shepherd school” for 12 students in the Eco-farm of FWFF
 - ❑ Traveling photo exhibition promoting the Transhumance;
 - ❑ A book and a movie for the Transhumance.
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Thank you!

