

Natura 2000 is a network of protected areas covering Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves in which all human activities would be excluded. The approach to conservation and sustainable use of the Natura 2000 areas is much wider, largely based on people working with nature rather than against it. Everything we need, just ensure that the site is managed in a sustainable manner, both ecologically and economically.



Find out more about Natura 2000
<http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/#>



Find out more about the Project:
<http://natura2000.gov.mk/>



For questions contact: info@natura2000.gov.mk

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Photos made by: Representatives of the Department of Nature, MOEPP; NP Pelister and the Twinning Project.

NATURA 2000

For nature
 For people



Potential Natura 2000 Area National Park PELISTER



„Strengthening the capacities for effective implementation of the acquis in the field of nature protection”



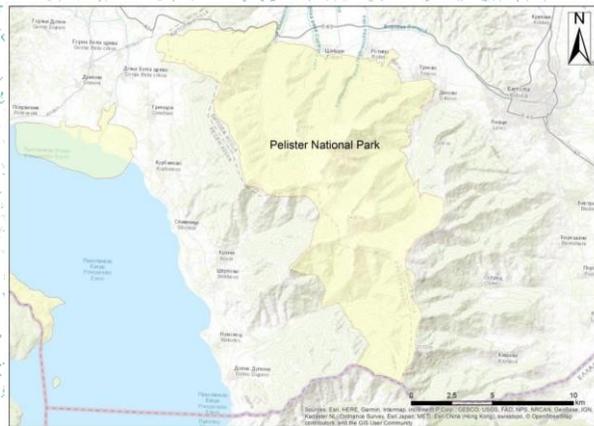
This project is funded by the European Union.

IMPORTANCE OF PELISTER NATIONAL PARK

Pelister is the first national park in the Republic of North Macedonia. Secluded from the rest of the country, it grants complete immersion for everyone willing to experience breath taking nature scenery. It is important not only for the society of the Republic of North Macedonia, but for European Community and even for the world community as well.

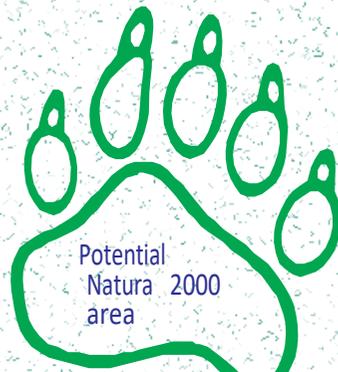
With over 17,150 hectares, Pelister National Park covers a magnificently large area with the highly diverse landscape, beautiful nature, rich geodiversity and biodiversity. Several rivers cut through, and naked hills stand in contrast to lush and densely forested areas.

Map of
NP Pelister



NP Pelister is included in the following international networks for nature protection:

- National Emerald network of ASCI of the EU
- Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Ohrid -Prespa, established in accordance with the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program
- The Park has been identified as IPA in accordance with the criteria of the Plant Life International.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE USE IN NATURA 2000

The landform in each Natura 2000 area – its mountains, highlands, plains, meadows etc, determines the type of activities which will be practiced there.

Recommended activities for future Natura 2000 area NP Pelister:

sport

recreation

research

anti-stress therapy

observation

eco-tourism

traditional agriculture and farming

skiing

hiking

recreational fishing

alpinism

paragliding

biking

healthy local food

The EU Habitats and Birds Directives set the framework for action, but leave it to each Member State to decide how best to manage their individual Natura 2000 sites in consultation with local stakeholders. Because every Natura 2000 site is unique, there is no 'one-size-fits-all' rule for the management.

Help to protect the values of the Pelister National Park!

Be aware, act with responsibility!

- It is very difficult to stop the fire in mountains, so please Do Not Burn! Fire kills everything on its way!
- Get involved! You can help to collect the data on protected species and habitats in the area.
- Organize a campaign with your family, friends, community to pick-up the litters from the surroundings. Let's make your area clean!

Be active!

- Be involved in alternative tourism in Malovishta and other villages bordering the National Park. To know rural life and to nurture traditional activities is not only interesting but also useful for nature and you!
- Read more about farming in Natura 2000!



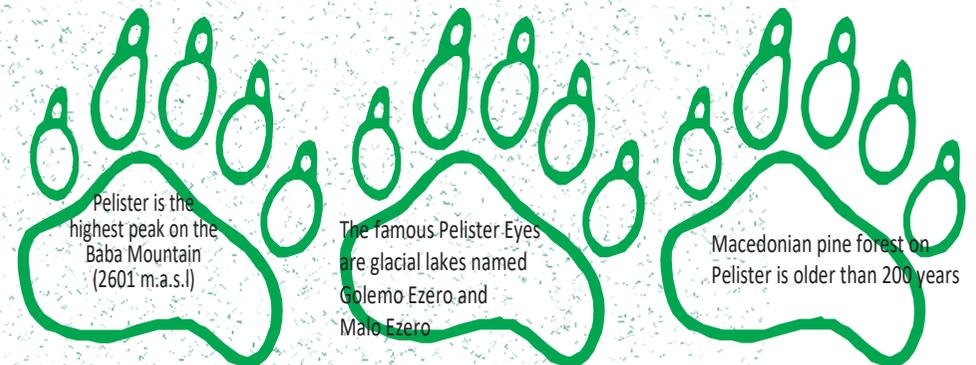
The Natura 2000 network is based on partnership building at local level, raising awareness among the general public and stakeholders in order to encourage their participation in the planning and management process.

Because of the geological composition, specific terrain and the local mountain climate, various habitat types have been formed in the protected area supporting rich and important biological diversity. Of these the most prominent are the five-needled forests of the Macedonian Pine – Molika. In addition, Pelister National Park is home to nine important endemic species and many other rare and threatened species.



Oro-Moesian acidophilous grasslands (62D0)

This habitat type, as a very important type is listed on Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive



NATURE OF NATIONAL PARK PELISTER

The National Park includes all the main types of ecosystems that are typically encountered in Macedonia: forest and dry grassland, montane and aquatic ecosystems.

Within these ecosystems, we can observe habitats of different types, from heathlands and shrubs through broad-leaved deciduous (oak and beech) and evergreen (pine) forest communities to dry, subalpine and alpine grass communities, as well as communities' nearby streams and various water habitats.



Alpine and boreal heaths are common type of habitat on NP Pelister

Especially important are the endemic plant species which are only met in NP Pelister:

- *Crocus pelistericus*
- *Alchemilla peristerica*



Crocus pelistericus

ROCKY HABITAT IN PELISTER NATIONAL PARK

Rocky habitats are common and characteristic for Pelister National Park. This habitat type includes all the Medio-European upland siliceous screes.



Famous "stone rivers" of Pelister NP belong to this habitat type. Siliceous screes are very important especially for lichens and bryophytes, as well as for ferns including rare species with boreal and alpine distribution.



Magarevska Reka Valley



Spreading wood fern - *Dryopteris expansa*

FRESH-WATER ECOSYSTEMS IN PELISTER NATIONAL PARK

Glacial lakes, mountain springs, streams and rivers are very important for a number of local endemic and other rare species. Glacial lakes are of high aesthetic value.



Malo Ezero



Golemo Ezero



Salmo peristericus



Balkan Goldenring (*Cordulegaster heros*)



White-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)



Gray Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)



The ecosystem of the Greater Lake is very sensitive and relatively large number of visitors could be a serious threat to it. Would you like to save this unique lake for future generation? Live and travel responsibly!

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN NP PELISTER

The forests in Pelister National Park cover a territory of 5.672 ha. There are nine types of forest communities in the National Park, two of which are formed by molika (*Pinus peuce*), four by beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and three by the oak (*Quercus* spp).

These forests are important habitats for a lot of endangered or rare animal species. Therefore, they are of high socio-economic value.

91AA* Eastern white oak woods

* Priority types of habitats and species, which are under a threat of extinction have special treatment throughout Europe.



Alpine longhorn beetle (*Rosalia alpina*)



Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)



Narrow-leaved helleborine (*Cephalanthera longifolia*)



Middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*)



NP Pelister forest is home to many large carnivores, especially the bear. When walking in the forest, remember - you are the guests in their house, so act responsibly!

MOLIKA FOREST IN NATIONAL PARK PELISTER

Pelister National Park is widely known for its molika forest. Molika – the five needled Macedonian Pine – establishes two plant communities in the National Park:

- the mountainous molika woodland (*Digitali viridi orae– Pinetumpeuces*)
- the sub-alpine molika woodland (*Gentiano luteae– Pinetumpeuces*)

Macedonian Pine is one of the most important and most interesting bio-geographical, ecological and vegetation phenomena on the Balkan Peninsula.



Molika forest - seen from the locality Lastoichen Kamen



Cones of Molika

The needles are usually 6–11 cm long. The cones are mostly 8–16 cm long, occasionally up to 20 cm long, green at first, becoming yellow-brown when mature, with broad, flat to down curved scales. The 6–7 mm long seeds have a 2 cm wing and can be wind-dispersed, but are also very often dispersed by spotted nutcrackers.

DIFFERENT GRASSLAND TYPES IN PELISTER NATIONAL PARK

The grass communities, alpine graze land in particular, and the other grass communities in the alpine zone include many local, Macedonian and Balkan endemic communities. Grass communities are also of high socio-economic importance and have high aesthetic values.

Look around and see typical species:



Oromoesian acidophilous grasslands - 62D0
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies

Sheep grazing has a long tradition in Baba Mountain and used to be the most important economic activity to the most of the local communities. Grasslands are benefiting from traditional farming, which helps in maintaining the biodiversity. Therefore, the European Union financially supports farmers in Natura 2000 sites.

Be a farmer!



Dianthus myrtinervius



Maculinea arion

