

# GIS for Natura 2000

Transparent and effective management of protected areas in Bulgaria through GIS

## The Challenges

- Implementation of more effective and transparent management of protected areas in Bulgaria
- Implementation of EU directives, including INSPIRE

## The Benefits

- Effective administration
- Centralized information and public access
- Automated processes and procedures
- Capabilities for geospatial analysis and making informed decisions
- Transparent activities



## The Customer

Ministry of Environment and Water (MEW) develops and implements the national policy on Environment and Water of Bulgaria. According to the Biodiversity Law. The Ministry is responsible for the building and operation of the ecological network of protected areas in the country. In this regard, among the priorities of the Ministry are development of management plans for protected areas, control over compliance regimes in them, assessments of compatibility, maintenance of public registers and reporting to the European Commission based on a few directives.

## The Challenges

To solve these problems, MEW is facing many challenges. Different structures of the Ministry have heterogeneous, inconsistent duplicate data with varying relevance, coordinate systems and in multiple formats which are difficult to reconcile. The lack of much needed single database on protected areas of the national ecological network Natura 2000 is crucial. This slows down and hinders the work of experts and coordination between different administrative units. It hampers the implementation of the commitments of the Ministry to the European Commission, including the INSPIRE Directive.

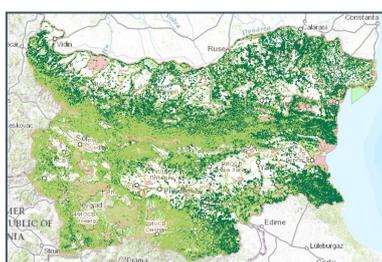
## The Solution

ESRI Bulgaria, as the leading member of the consortium Natura - GIS, developed and deployed in the Ministry and its structures Unified Information System (UIS) for protected areas of NATURA 2000 ecological network. The system is built on Esri ArcGIS platform. Besides powerful back-office functionality which supports preservation, planning and management of the ecological network, the system includes public application, providing public access to current information for the spatial scale, location and functional status of protected areas. This ensures transparency in the conduct of administrative procedures. The public part of the application is available at: [natura2000.moew.government.bg](http://natura2000.moew.government.bg)

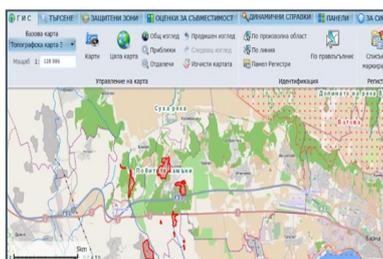
Learn more at: [esribulgaria.com](http://esribulgaria.com)

“Implementing the Unified Information System of the Ministry of Environment and Water made a big step towards a more effective, transparent and verifiable management of protected areas in Bulgaria.”

**Vesela Savova, Project Manager, MEW**



**Module “GIS”**



**Module “Register of protected areas”**



**Public application**

### The System

The Unified Information System (UIS) for protected areas of Natura 2000 network provides a centralized database and powerful functionality, via desktop and the web, using Esri software ArcGIS for Server, ArcGIS for Desktop, FME and extensions to them. The system consists of the following functional modules:

- Geographic Information System
- Register of Protected Areas
- Register of Procedures for Compatibility Assessment
- Administration
- Portal Web Application

The system includes all processes related to the management of protected areas and procedures for compatibility assessment, providing powerful tools for entering and processing data, information and analysis.

For the successful implementation of the project were processed, validated, verified and integrated terabytes of data, which were subsequently charged in a total of 988 layers in the geodatabase system. In addition, for the purposes of applying the EU INSPIRE Directive, was built a specific geographic database with harmonized data published via special Geoportal.

UIS is integrated with the other information systems of the Ministry, including the Register of protected areas in the Executive Environment Agency, the biodiversity information system, the information system for permits issuing and monitoring of waters management and etc. As part of the system is developed a public application that provides access to all stakeholders and citizens to data for the protected areas, procedures for appropriate assessment and related documents.

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