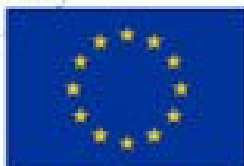


A group of hikers, seen from behind, are walking along a dirt path that winds through a dense forest of tall evergreen trees. The hikers are wearing various backpacks and casual outdoor clothing. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The path is narrow and appears to be a well-trodden trail. The forest is lush and green, with sunlight filtering through the canopy.

**Biodiversity education through  
outdoor classroom in Bulgaria**

Bulgaria is a non large country in the South- Eastern part of the Europe with area of 111000 sq. km.

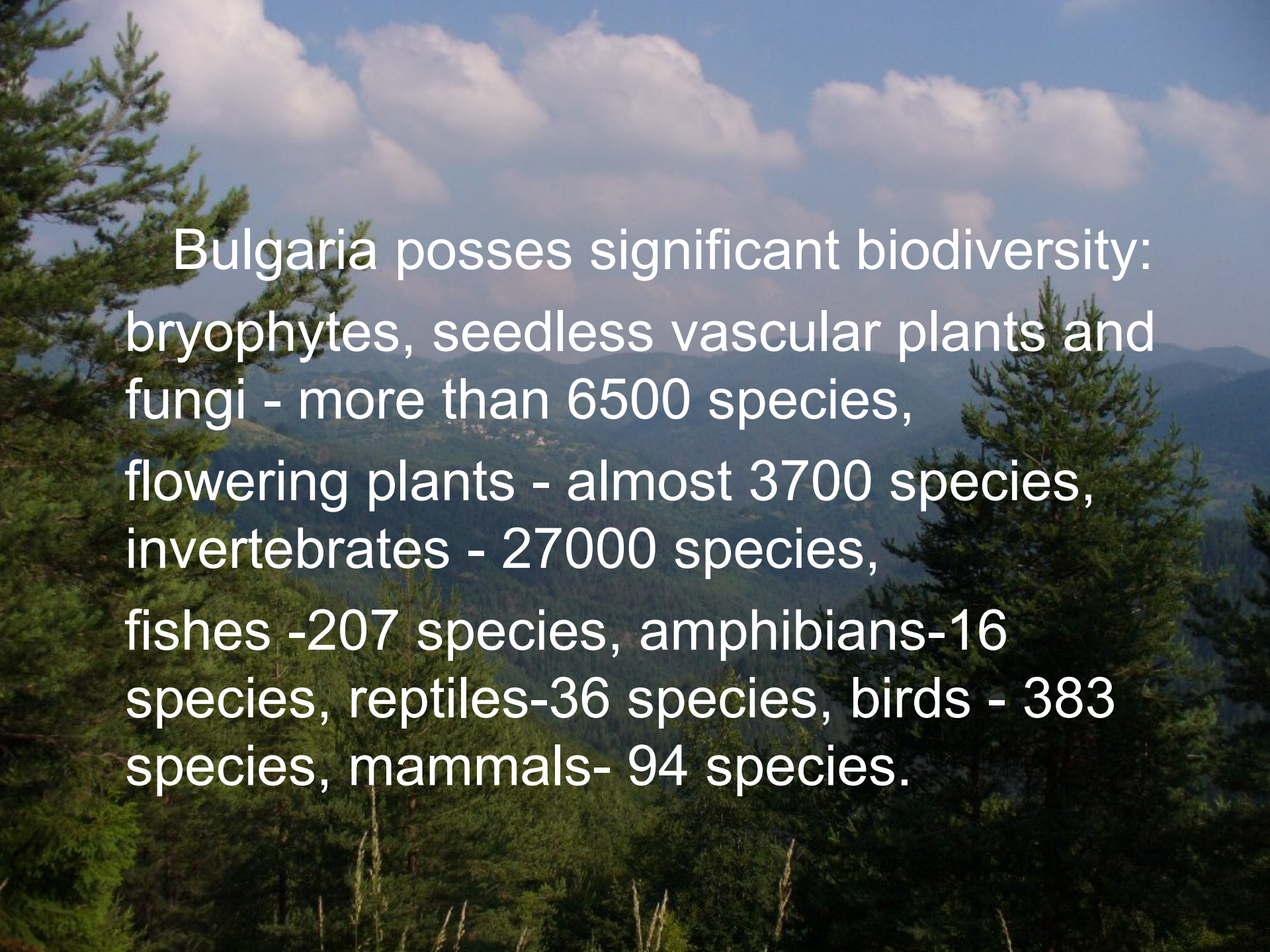




РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ



Държавно устройство	Парламентарна република
Площ	110 993,6 km <sup>2</sup>
Население	7 718 750 жители
Валута	Лев (1-Евро = 1.95583 лева)
Часова зона	UTC+2
Столица	София
Най-голям град	София (1 231 622 жители)
Други големи градове	Пловдив, Варна, Бургас, Русе
Internet TLD	bg
Телефонен код	+359



Bulgaria possesses significant biodiversity:  
bryophytes, seedless vascular plants and fungi - more than 6500 species,  
flowering plants - almost 3700 species,  
invertebrates - 27000 species,  
fishes - 207 species, amphibians - 16 species,  
reptiles - 36 species, birds - 383 species,  
mammals - 94 species.

## Traditions for outdoor biodiversity education in the past

Biodiversity education for students through the outdoor classroom has comparatively good traditions in Bulgaria.

In the past (before democratic changes in the country) it was organized in the so called Regional Centres of Young Biologist, which supported close relationships with academic bodies (Universities, Scientific institutes of Bulgarian academy of science etc.)

They possessed qualified staff and owned premises with small laboratories, libraries, vans etc.

# Organization of outdoor biodiversity education in the past

Central Station of Young biologists  
in Sofia

Regional Stations of young biologists  
in 28 regions of Bulgaria, supplied with experienced staff and good facilities for education and activities (laboratories, experimental fields, minibuses etc.)

Clubs in schools

# Organization of biodiversity education through outdoor classroom nowadays

Biodiversity education through outdoor classroom in Bulgaria nowadays is achieved in three different ways:

- In some school clubs, whose main purpose is enhancement of biodiversity knowledge
- In the United children complexes
- With the help of environmental NGOs, working in the field of biodiversity research and protection

**Outdoor activities  
for biodiversity  
education  
in Bulgaria**

In clubs in some  
schools

In clubs in the  
United Children  
Complexes

Organized by  
nationally or locally  
represented  
environmental  
NGO

National competition  
“The school-  
a desired territory”

National competition  
“Natural science and  
ecology “



# Outdoor Biodiversity education in school clubs

In many Bulgarian schools a lot of clubs exist, offering a wide variety of outdoor activities aiming towards research of the biodiversity of the region and its protection, or to some environmental problems. Some clubs work on small projects, funded by sponsors or programs.



An expedition along Tundja river – students from a club from a secondary school in Yambol district



Camping preparation



Towards a small island by boat



Field work with students



Field work with students



An ornithological expedition with participants from the Mathematical high school - town of Yambol



Caught in the net





# АНДОН ДАРАКЧИЕВ РЪКОВОДСТВО ПО ОЛОГИЯ



**ПЪСТРОУСНАТО ШАВАНЕ** (Скочна птица)  
...  
**БРЕЗОВ ПЕВЕЦ** (Риш/Посковина турска)  
...  
**БЯОВ ПЕВЕЦ** (Риш/Посковина солончиш)  
...



Bird identification

# Bird identification





Bird ringing



Ready for a flight



Field work





Planting trees







Students on a excursion



With love for birds



Field work



In the Natural museum in the town of Kotel

# Outdoor Biodiversity education in the United Children complexes

A large part of outdoor activities is aimed to obtain biodiversity knowledge and creation of environmental thinking. A lot of clubs such as “Ecology”, “Friends of Nature”, “Ornithology”, etc. exist and work actively in the so called United Children Complexes- supporting educational institutions providing wide range of activities for student`s spare time.

Many groups of students together with specialists from the administrations of the National parks or Regional Offices of Ministry of Environment and Waters participate in common initiatives, actions and biodiversity projects implementation in the National parks and reserves in the country.



A role play in the “Soskovcheto” reserve

















QUALITE CONFORT  
2002  
★  
CERTEGARANTIE  
CERTEGARANTIE  
CERTEGARANTIE

















# Biodiversity education through outdoor classroom provided by NGO

During the last decade a fruitful interaction was established between schools, state educational structures and NGOs, working in the field of biodiversity education. A lot of guides, photo guides, booklets, posters etc. dedicated to biodiversity issues were published and distributed among the schools.

In 2007 Bulgarian foundation “ Biodiversity” organized school and regional competitions “ Protection of biodiversity”.

Over 215 students from 16 schools in Smolyan region participated in the school competition and 35 of them were selected for participation in the regional competition.



Opening of the regional competition  
“ Protection of biodiversity”



Work on the theoretical test



Identification of protected plant species





Identification of amphibians



Identification of reptiles



Identification of protected birds



Waiting for the results



Announcement of the results



COOLPIX 5600



Rewarding the participants











PHOCB СМОЛЯН

# National competitions for projects

The most successful projects (some of them in the sphere of biodiversity research) are presented to the regional and national level of the competition “The school - a desired territory” or to the National competition for the projects in the Natural Sciences and Ecology taking place once a year in different towns in the country.



Arrangement of the posters and exhibits



# ГОРДИТЕ ДЕЦА НА НЕБЕТО



Мнозина смятат, че птиците са безжизнен живот, че те не могат да чувстват. Това е огромно грешно мнение, защото птиците са много чувствителни животни. Те могат да усещат болка, да се радват и да са тъжни. Те могат да се влюбват и да имат деца. Птиците са много интелигентни животни и могат да правят много неща, които ние хората не можем да направим. Те са много интелигентни.



Скопачите са много интелигентни животни и могат да правят много неща, които ние хората не можем да направим. Те са много интелигентни и могат да правят много неща, които ние хората не можем да направим. Те са много интелигентни и могат да правят много неща, които ние хората не можем да направим.

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Характеристики на птиците  
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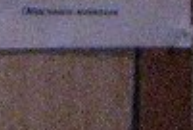
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Thank you for your attention



Atanas Tomov Zgurov

Senior expert

Regional Inspectorate of Education

Bulgaria

4700 Smolyan, 14 Bulgaria blv.