

Central Balkan National Park Bulgaria

Law & Administrative Regulations



The Central Balkan National Park was established on **31. 10. 1991** to conserve the unique natural scenery and heritage of this area and protect the customs and livelihood of the local population.



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The Park Directorate is a regional body of the Ministry of the Environment and Waters who manages the Park. The Park Directorate engages local organizations, volunteers, and mountain enthusiasts in pursuing its goals.



The park management politics are subject to the long-term purpose of the existing of The Central Balkan National Park:



- To conserve and maintain biological diversity in the Central Balkan;
- To provide opportunities for scientific research and educational activities;
- To provide opportunities to develop sustainable tourism;
- To provide opportunities for livelihood and income generation to the local population.

A major tool of the Park management is the differentiation of 5 zones within the park, which are managed under different regulations.

1. Reserve zone
2. Limited human impact zone
3. Tourism zone
4. Infrastructure zone
5. Multifunctional zone



Reserve Zone



- 9 strictly reserved territories with total area of 20000 hectares (200 km²) or 28% of the total area of The Central Balkan National Park



- The reserve zone of The Central Balkan National Park is the highest priority protected area with a significant natural and scientific value.



The only activities allowed within the Reserves are:

- Authorized patrols;
- Scientific research (including seed sample, wild plants and animals gathering for scientific purposes);
- Fire control and prevention;
- Sanitary culling of forests that have been destroyed or degraded as a result of natural disaster;
- Pedestrian transit along designated trails.

Limited Human Impact Zone



- This zone includes adjacent regions to the Reserves, as well as other territories rich in biodiversity and/or of cultural and historical significance.
- The Limited Human Impact zone's purpose is to deter, restrict, or mitigate human contact and impact on the Reserves and the Park's cultural and historical heritage.



Conditions are provided within this zone to maintain the biological integrity and natural genetic exchange within species—encouraging the uninterrupted passage of wildlife between separate reserves, and maintenance of the genetic exchange within the plant and animal populations within them.

Tourism Zone



This zone comprises:

- Trails;
- Shelters and lodges;
- Cultural and historical sites;
- Camp and picnic sites;
- Scenic lookouts;
- Specific locations for interpretation and educational activities;
- Sports facilities, including the designated extreme sports areas;
- The main entry/exit points for tourists.





The Tourism zone provides tourist and recreational opportunities while protecting wildlife and the natural surroundings. Visitors can cross the Park along a first-rate hiking route of the European system linking the Black Sea with the rest of Europe.

Infrastructure Zone



This zone comprises all fixed capital assets within the Park, the auxiliary and technical facilities belonging to them, and the lots they are built upon, depending on the actual or designated boundaries of other usable property.



The Infrastructure Zone includes:

- Multifunctional building complexes serving a variety of purposes;
- Accommodation facilities;
- The Park Directorate sites and facilities;
- Sanitation and security belts;
- Transportation and forester's lodges;
- The electricity power grid;
- Roads and related facilities;
- Water reservoirs and other manmade water basins.

Multifunctional Zone

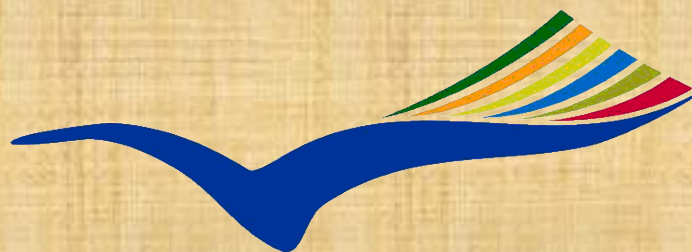


This zone makes up all other Park territories. These are mostly natural areas where no special measures are envisioned. The main purpose of the **Multifunctional Zone** is to preserve the natural state of the ecological communities, ecosystems and habitats.



Within the **Multifunctional Zone** are allowed activities like grazing, haymaking and gathering of firewood and timber for the needs of the local population. All these activities are subject to certain restrictions and regulations. Hiking and camping is allowed freely, at places chosen by the visitors, but are subject to the applicable regime and norms of the Multifunctional Zone.

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