



# NATIONAL PARKS IN BULGARIA





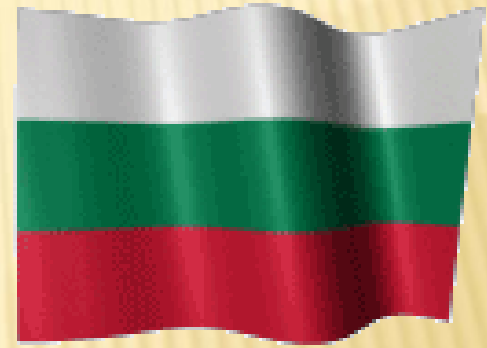




# Republic of Bulgaria



# GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BULGARIA



- × **Area: 111 000 km<sup>2</sup>**
- × **Population: 7 365 000**  
(85% Bulgarians, 8% Turkish, 5% Roma (Gipsy), 2% other minority groups)
- × **State system: Parliamentary Republic**
- × **Official language: Bulgarian**
- × **Religion: Eastern Orthodox Christianity**  
(The Turkish and part of the Roma minorities profess The Islam)



# THE NATURAL PROTECTED TERRITORIES IN BULGARIA ARE ABOUT 5% OF THE WHOLE AREA OF THE COUNTRY OR ABOUT 5 550 KM<sup>2</sup>

- × 3 National Parks
- × 11 Natural Parks
- × 54 Reserves
- × 35 Managed Natural Reserves
- × 349 Natural Monuments
- × 500 Protected Sites







**National Park  
RILA**



**National Park  
PIRIN**



**National Park  
CENTRAL BALKAN**

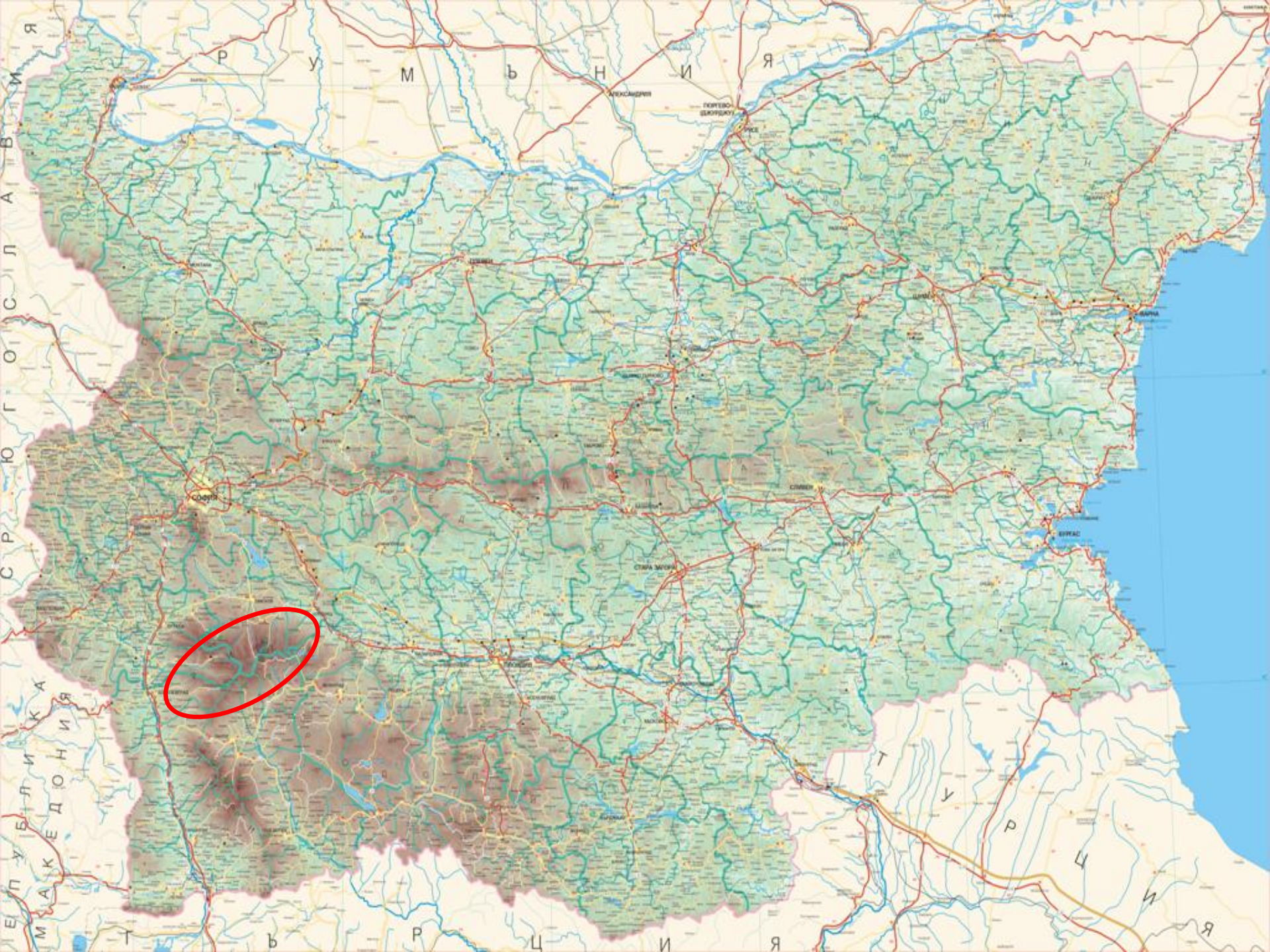


# NATIONAL PARK “RILA”



Rila National Park is the largest one in Bulgaria with territory of 81 046 hectares (810 km<sup>2</sup>). It is located in the Rila Mountains in the southwestern region of Bulgaria. It comprises the treeless areas along the mountain ridge and sections of the coniferous forests below it. Its territory occupies 30% of the entire mountain.

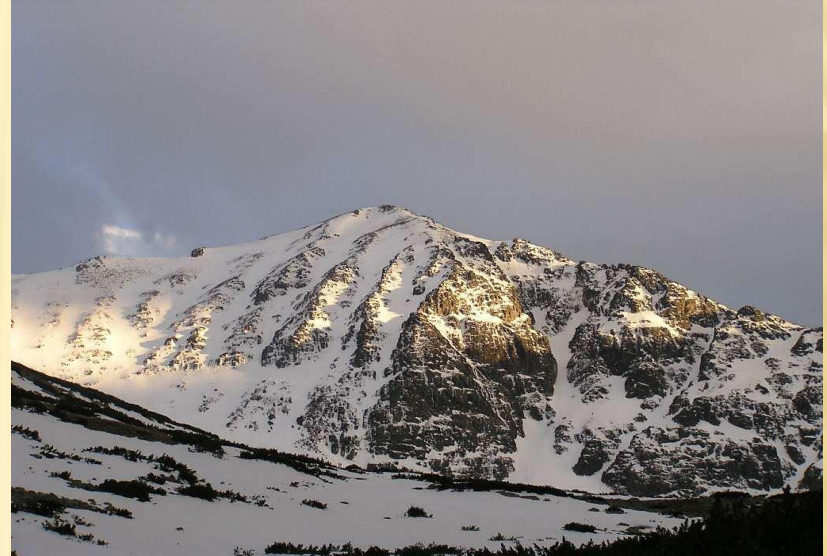






# NATIONAL PARK “RILA”

- ✗ The mountain peaks along the main ridges rise to an average height of 2,700 meters above sea level and includes the highest peak on the Balkan Peninsula: Mussala (2,925 meters).
- ✗ The Park contains large meadows, over 100 peaks rising above 2,000 meters, as well as a variety of rock faces, precipices, caves, deep canyons, and waterfalls. Its territory is dotted with about 120 lakes—70 date back from the Ice Age.





# NATIONAL PARK “RILA”



Rila National Park is one of the largest and most valuable protected areas in Europe — listed as Category 2 by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The Park is on the UN List of Representative Protected Areas.



# NATIONAL PARK “RILA”

- ✗ Most of Rila National Park is covered in thick a coniferous tree forests — primarily spruce, white fir, and Macedonian pine.
- ✗ 57 endemic species (of limited geographic range) are local endemic species
- ✗ 105 relict species (survivors from past geological ages), of which 74 dating from the Ice Age, and 31 from the Tertiary Age.
- ✗ 98 are listed in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria (13% of all those listed).





# NATIONAL PARK “RILA”

- ✖ This part of Rila Mountain is home to 2,934 invertebrate and 172 vertebrate species of the Bulgarian fauna. There are 99 species of nesting birds (30% of all known in Bulgaria), of which all but 5 are protected. Many of the vertebrate species within the Park are protected:
- ✖ 121 species are listed in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria
- ✖ 24 are on the World Conservation Union Red List
- ✖ 158 are on lists under the Bern Convention.
- ✖ Of the invertebrate fauna, 41 organisms are included in world or European lists of endangered species.



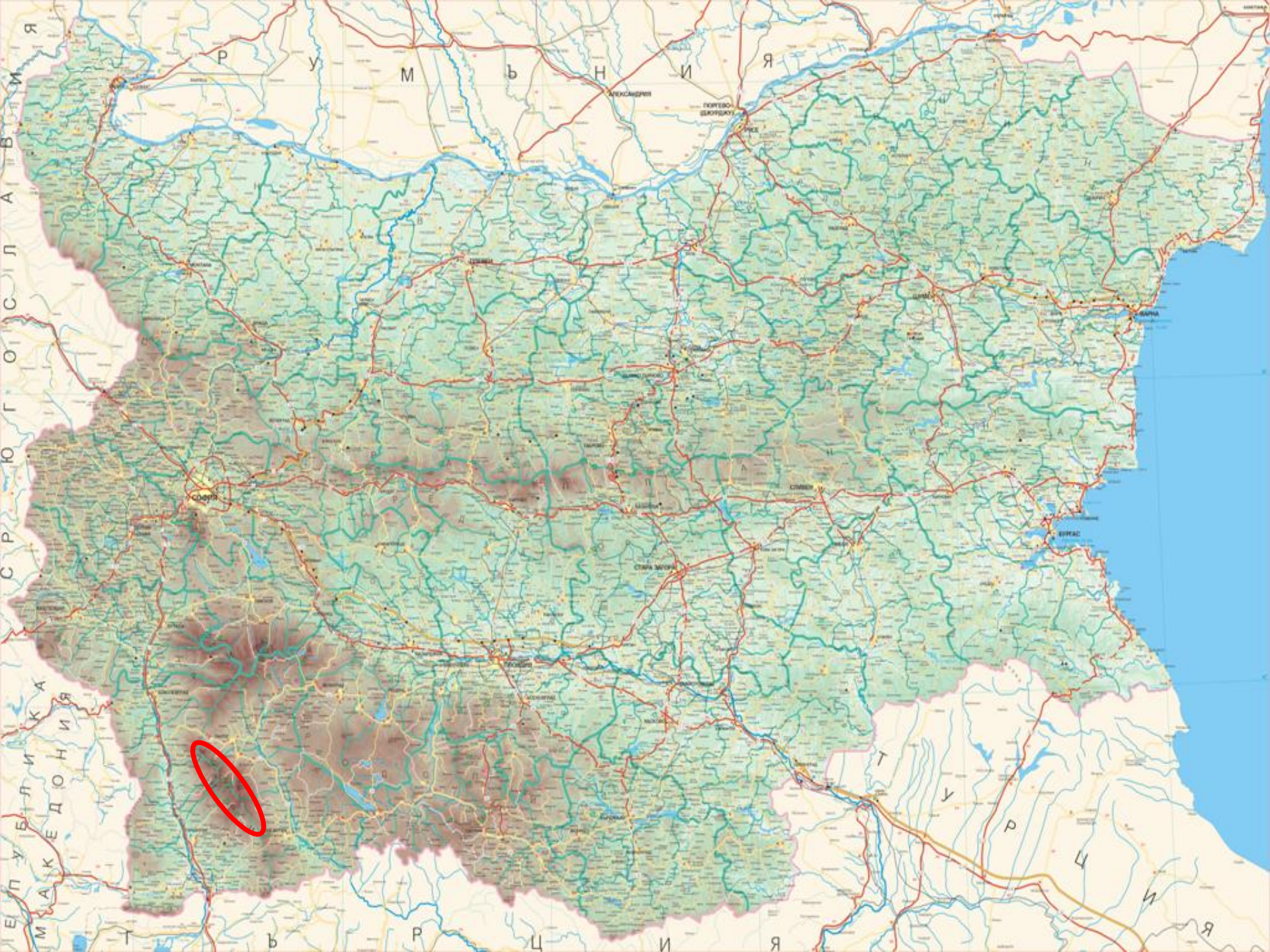


# NATIONAL PARK “PIRIN”



Pirin National Park is a World Heritage national park that encompasses the larger part of the Pirin Mountains in the southwest of Bulgaria. It has an area of 40,333 hectares (403 km<sup>2</sup>) and lies at an altitude from 1,008 to 2,914 m.







# NATIONAL PARK “PIRIN”



The huge relief diversity of the park is the reason for the variety of plant species on its territory, making it one of the most botanically interesting areas in Bulgaria. Three plant belts are differentiated within the Pirin National Park, a forest one, a subalpine one and an alpine one, which is due to the relatively high location of the entire park.



# NATIONAL PARK “PIRIN”

- ✖ About 1300 species of higher plant species can be observed within the park, which constitute more than 30% of all higher plants on the territory of Bulgaria. Besides this, about 300 moss species and a large amount of algae have been determined.
- ✖ The park is a home to 18 local endemic species, 15 Bulgarian and many Balkan endemic and a large quantity of preserved species, such as the Edelweiss, a symbol of Pirin.





# NATIONAL PARK “PIRIN”



- ✗ A huge number of animal species are preserved in the park, a cause of the relief diversity and southern location.
- ✗ About 2090 invertebrate species and subspecies are to be seen in the park, among them 300 rare species, 214 endemic and 175 relicts, as well as 15 that were included in international endangered species lists.





# NATIONAL PARK “PIRIN”



- ✗ The number of bird species that can be seen in the park is particularly large — about 160, 40% of all bird species in Bulgaria.
- ✗ There are 45 mammal species (including 12 bat species) that inhabit the Pirin National Park, which is 50% of the total number in Bulgaria. Among them are the Balkan Wild Goat and the Brown Bear.



# NATIONAL PARK “PIRIN”



Pirin National Park has a breathtaking landscape and is a favourite and well developed site for tourism and alpinism in Bulgaria.



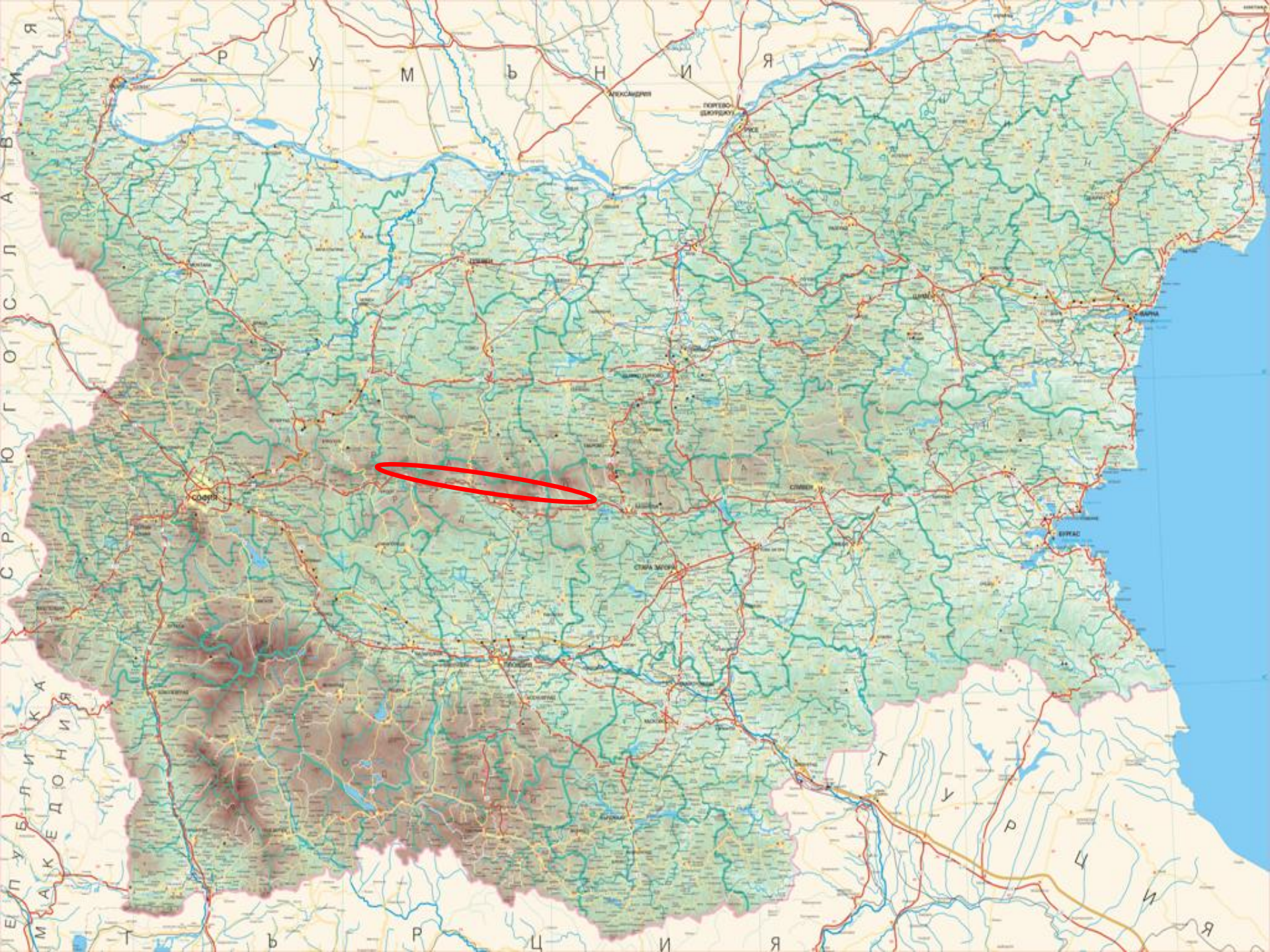


# NATIONAL PARK “CENTRAL BALKAN”



*The Central Balkan National Park* lies in the heart of Bulgaria, nestled in the central and higher portions of the Balkan Range. The Park contains rare and endangered wildlife species and communities, self-regulating ecosystems of biological diversity, as well as historical sites of global cultural and scientific significance.







# NATIONAL PARK “CENTRAL BALKAN”



- ✗ Area: 71,670 hectares (717 km<sup>2</sup>)
- ✗ It stretches on an east-west axis for approximately 85 km (with an approximate width of 10 km).
- ✗ Highest peak: Botev at 2,376 m
- ✗ 70% of all ecosystems are natural
- ✗ The largest beech forest in Europe is in the Central Balkan



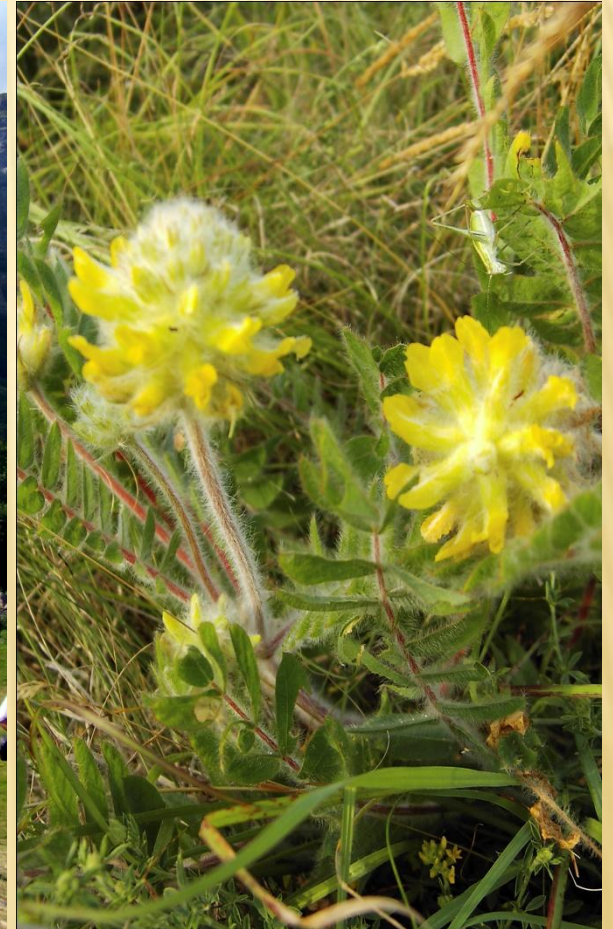
# NATIONAL PARK “CENTRAL BALKAN”

- ✗ Centuries-old forests of beech, spruce, fir, hornbeam, and durmast cover most of the Park.
- ✗ More than half the flora of Bulgaria has been identified within the Park, and of these, 10 species and 2 subspecies are endemic, and are found nowhere else in the world.
- ✗ Over 130 higher plants and animals encountered in the Central Balkan National Park are listed in the Bulgarian and the World Red Book of Endangered Species.





# NATIONAL PARK “CENTRAL BALKAN”



Central Balkan National Park is part of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network. 2340 species of plants, 60 species of mammals and 123 nesting species of birds live in the park.



# NATIONAL PARK “CENTRAL BALKAN”



- ✗ The central portion of the Balkan Range is home to 70% of all invertebrate organisms and 62% of all vertebrate animals in Bulgaria.
- ✗ There are 224 separate species of birds, making the Central Balkan National Park an important, international bird refuge.



# NATIONAL PARK “CENTRAL BALKAN”



The Park terrain includes large high-mountain meadows, vertical rock faces, precipices, deep canyons, waterfalls, as well as numerous peaks. The Central Balkan National Park is a favorite spot for tourists, naturalists and scientists.

