

**Title:** "Mapping ecosystems and their services of grasslands and grassland-related EFA's"

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**Abstract:**

In the spring of 2017 the project "Assessment and mapping of GRASSLAND ecosystems condition and their services in Bulgaria" under program BG03 Biodiversity and ecosystem services co-financed with the funds of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2009-2014 was completed. The aim of the project was to ensure an opportunity to explore various issues related to the availability of grassland ecosystems, combined with the long-term preservation of their potential. The project contributes original information about the grasslands outside the Natura 2000 network, about their distribution, biophysical parameters and capacity for commercial use. Project partners: Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBER – BAS) – Lead partner, Remote Sensing Application Center – ReSAC, Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds – BSPB, Biosphere Consult Ltd.

**Responsibilities:**

IBER – BAS – basic information about grass communities, animal species and develop and implement a methodology for their description and evaluation.

ReSAC - digitization and geo-referencing of all data, visual interpretation, modeling and creation of GIS databases, developing of web-GIS portal.

BSPB – information on birds and reptiles associated and verification of information.

Biosphere Consult Ltd - information on cultural ecosystem services and dissemination activities.

The project results and, in particular, the results of its additional activity "Using the assessment of grassland ecosystems and their services for Ecologically Focused Areas (EFA)" could be used for the development and improvement of the EU Common Agricultural Policy and have a great potential in creating better and more accurate assessments in Member States activities in the "Green Direct Payments".