

A short presentation of the candidate for the
LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
7th Session – 2020-2021

Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (BBF) is non-governmental nonprofit organization - a member of IUCN, aiming at encouraging **transboundary conservation** to ensure parallel care and respect for people and ecosystems through the model of transboundary protected areas and ecological corridors along the former **Iron Curtain** (1258 km or 10% of the latitude of **European Green Belt**). Its work has been dedicated to promote and implement people-centred management of natural landscapes, including pristine alpine ecosystems, forests and coastal zones, as well cultural landscapes.

BBF believes that effective nature conservation is impossible without **local community involvement** and the way to achieve it is through **incentivizing nature-friendly development**, be it in agriculture, forestry, urban areas or others. One of the aims of BBF has been to **improve the livelihoods of rural people** while contributing to resource conservation and preservation of local knowledge and traditions.

BBF has been working to wetlands conservation for more than 25 years focusing its efforts on the Northern Wetlands (Durankulak and Shabla Lakes), the Ropotamo Complex and the Burgas Wetlands (Lake Vaya, Mandra, Atanasovsko and Pomorie Lakes).

In the last 10 years, the Foundation has been most active in Burgas mainly in the Natura 2000 area of Atanasovsko Lake implementing conservation projects and measures from the Management plan for the Managed reserve (elaborated by BBF too).

BBF have prepared the National Action Plan for Conservation of Wetlands of High Significance in Bulgaria (2015-2025) with a team of the best wetlands' specialists in Bulgaria, in which Atanasovsko Lake is a priority area.