



# Nature conservation with traditional livestock breeds in the Stara Planina Nature Park

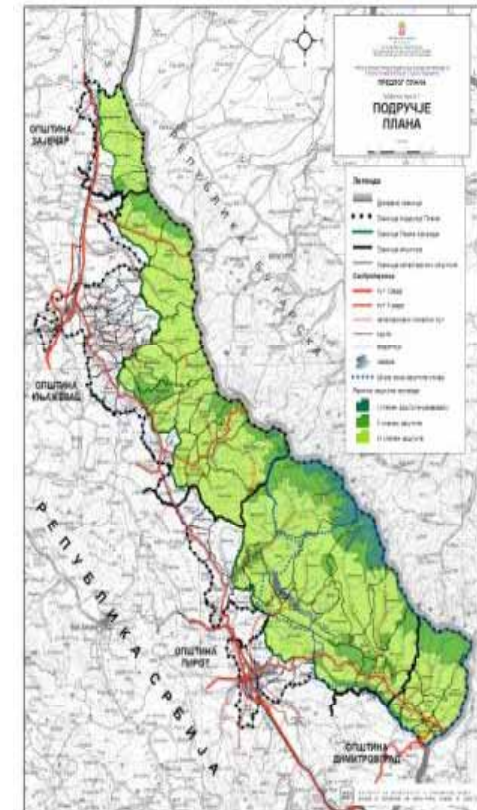


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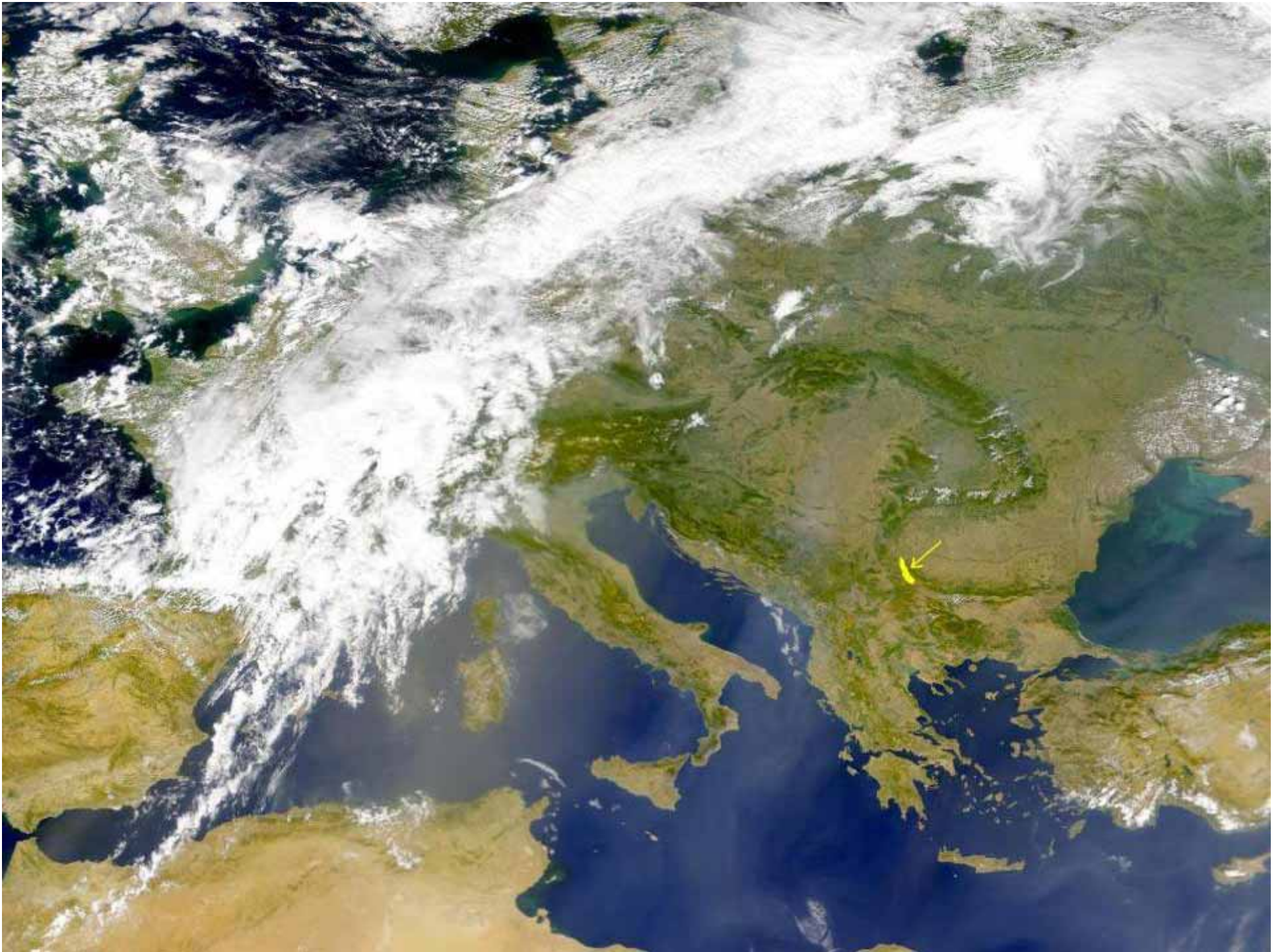


# Stara Planina Nature Park

- Stara Planina Nature Park established in 1997, as the biggest Serbian protected territory (1.114km<sup>2</sup>), and future candidate for UNESCO MAB Program;
- Stara Planina is one of the richest plant areas of Serbia, with about 1,190 plant and 51 moss species, or 34% of the respective nationally identified plant species;
- The vegetation of Stara Planina consists of 52 plant communities;
- Diversity of fauna determined within the region of Stara Planina mountain (Mijovic, 2006) includes 116 species of butterflies, 18 species of herpetofauna, 6 amphibian species, 12 species of reptiles, 203 bird species, out of 154 species are nesting birds, and more than 30 mammal species. Grassland habitats and herbaceous habitats in general host an important part of the reptile, birds and mammals. They are also a strategic habitat for many insect groups like *Orthoptera*, *Hymenoptera* and *Lepidoptera*.
- Grassland biodiversity is seriously endangered by natural succession and invasion of shrubs (*Betula verrucosa*, *Crataegus* spp., *Populus tremula* and *Salix* spp, *Juniperus communis*, *J. nana*, *Rosa* spp. and *Vaccinium* spp) and other plants (*Veratrum album*, *Pteridium aquilinum* and *Verbascum* spp)



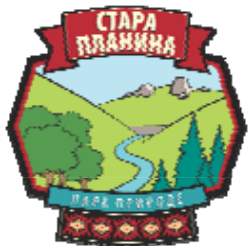












## Bird species depending on grassland maintainance

Some bird species needs open space of the sub-alpine and alpine pastures (example: *Prunella collaris* i *Montifringila nivalis*).

Other bird species needs presense of farm animals on the pastures, especially sheep in traditional systems of pasture management (example: *Neophron percnopterus*, *Gyps fulvus* and *Lanius* spp.)













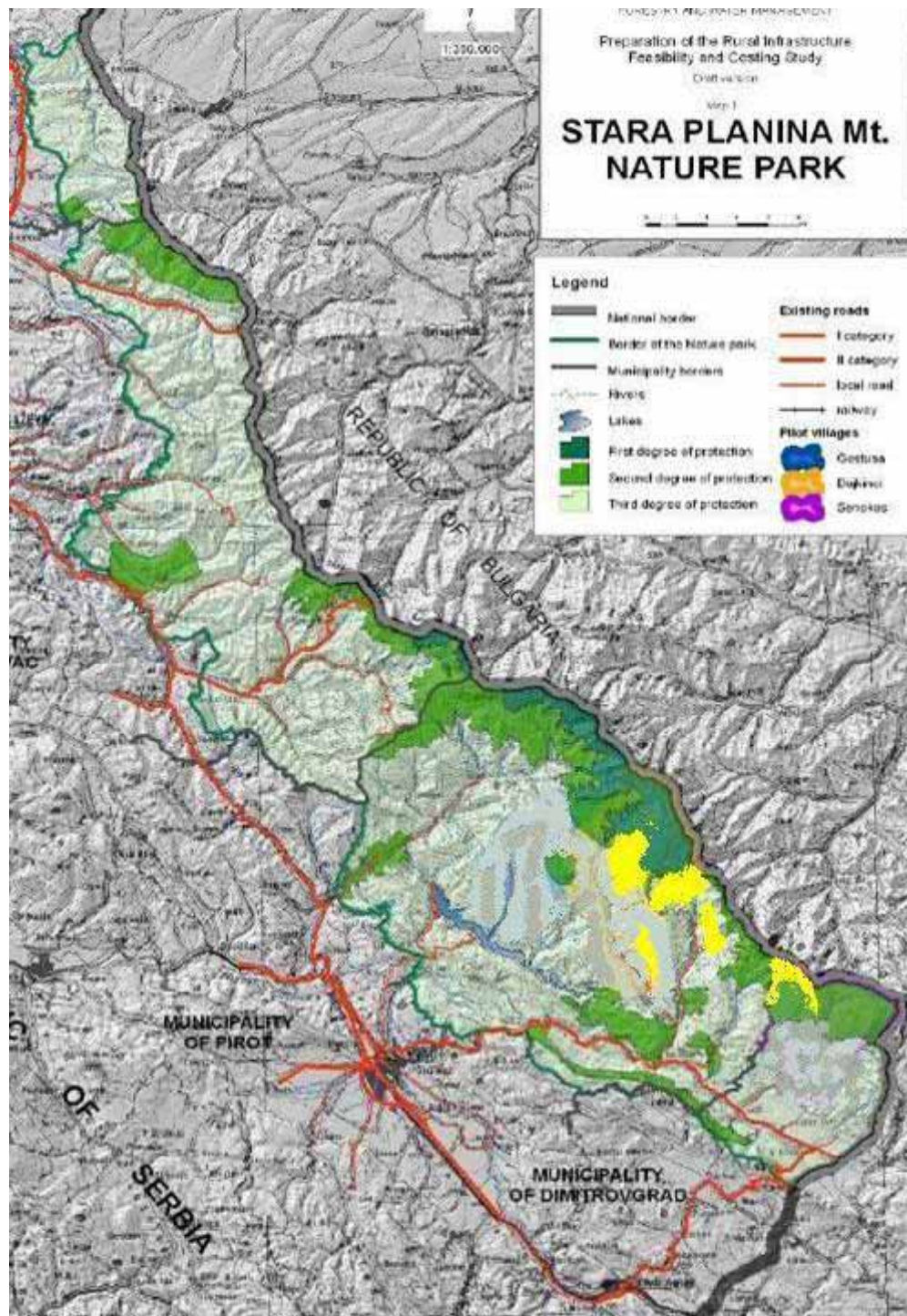


# Serbia transitional agriculture reform project



- Part of the project (the third component) is being implemented in the Stara Planina Nature Park;
- Financed by the World Bank and GEF donation;
- C3 component objective is to conserve the globally important eco-system in the Stara Planina Nature Park.
- C3 component aims to improve management of the SPNP, including its flora and autochthonous livestock breeds, in partnership with local communities and other stakeholders.

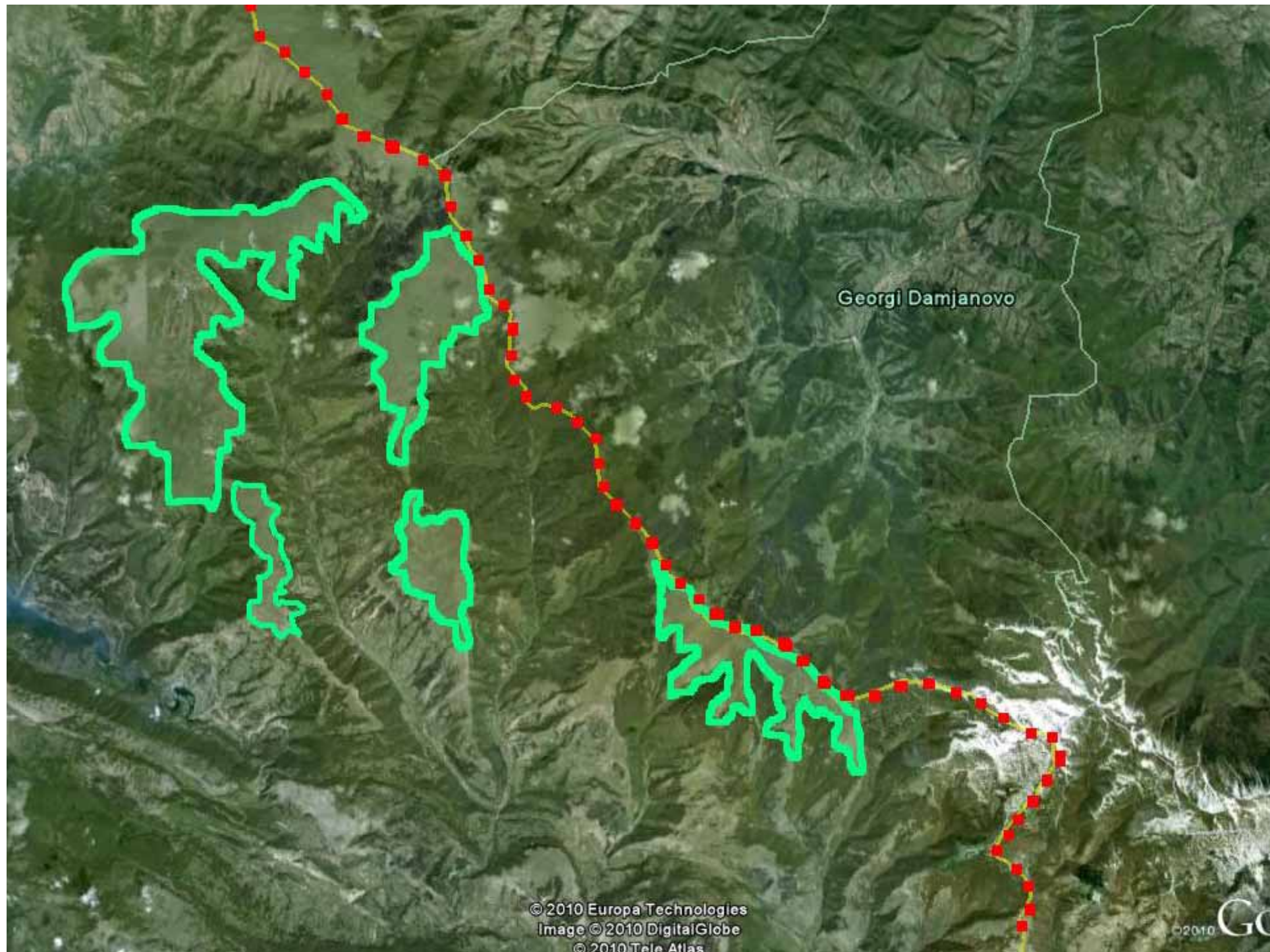




5 pilot grasslands identified during the project preparation phase (2006 – 2008)

1. Muchibaba
2. Ponor
3. Kopren
4. Vrtibog
5. Kovachevo





Georgi Damjanovo





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43°12'13.71"С 22°55'37.37"И вис. 1603 м

Поглед са висине 4.45 км



















## Grants for grassland management

- 5.000 € maximal amount;
- 90 days minimum flock to be on the pasture;
- eligible costs: shepherd salary, food for the shepherd, transport costs, camp equipment, clothes and shoes for the shepherd, milking equipment etc





Pilot pasture	Structure and numbers of farm animals grazing on the pilot pastures					
	Horses	Donkeys	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Livestock units
Muchibaba (600ha)	127	6	150	379	237	282
Vrtibog (1000ha)	10	-	33	188	13	62
Kovachevo (150a)		2	5	209	49	32
Ponor (500ha)	-	-	-	217	-	21
Kopren (1600ha)	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	137	8	188	983	299	397

# Participation of the traditional endangered breeds in maintainaince the pilot pastures

Breed	Number of heads	Location
Domestic Mountain Pony	40	Muchibaba
Balkan Donkey	8	Muchibaba and Kovachevo
Busha Cattle	150	Muchibaba
Pirot Zackel Sheep	150	Muchibaba
Karakachan Sheep	180	Muchibaba
Bardoka Sheep	50	Muchibaba
Balkan Goat	80	Muchibaba















































# The most endangered species today inside the Stara Planina Nature Park

