



Strengthening the IBA network in Montenegro

April 2023



Contents

- **Map of Montenegro's IBA network**
- **Overview**
- **A closer look at the criteria**
- **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)**
- **Conclusions**
- **References**

Main Authors: Joana Bores (BirdLife Europe and Central Asia), Sofia Capellán (BirdLife Europe and Central Asia), Bojan Zekovic (Center for Protection and Research of Birds), and Marija Šoškić Popović (Center for Protection and Research of Birds).

Contributing Authors: Olivia Crowe (BirdLife International), Mike Evans (BirdLife International), and Tom Lambert (BirdLife International)

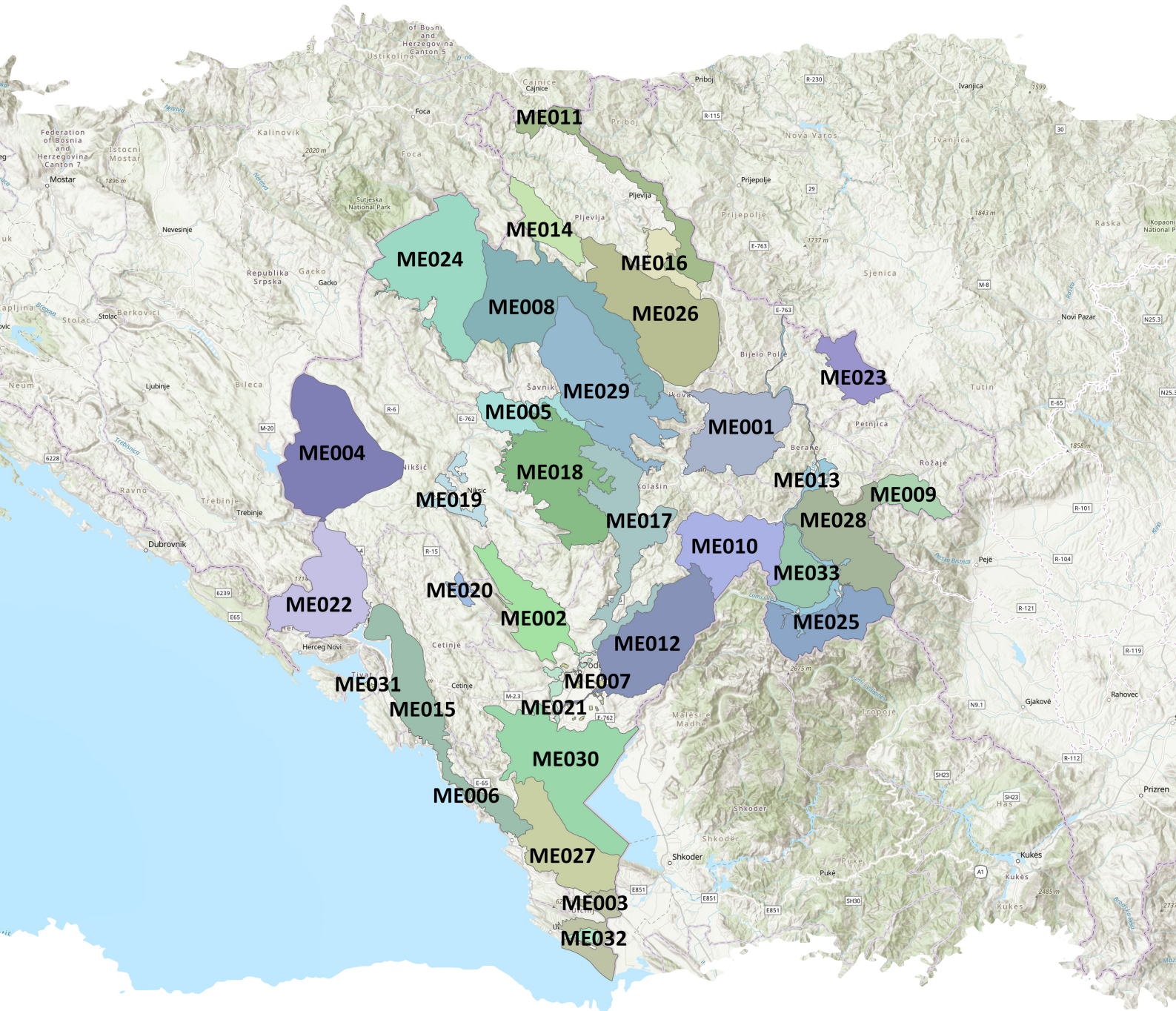
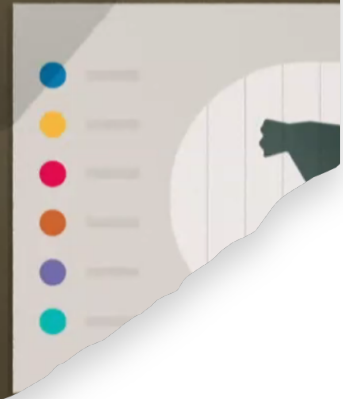
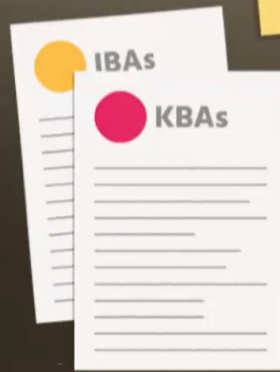
For bibliographic purposes, this publication may be cited as: *Strengthening the IBA network in Montenegro, 2023*, BirdLife International, Cambridge.

Design: Joana Bores (BirdLife Europe and Central Asia)

Stichting BirdLife Europe gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the European Commission. All content and opinions expressed on these pages are solely those of Stichting BirdLife Europe.



Map of Montenegro's IBA network



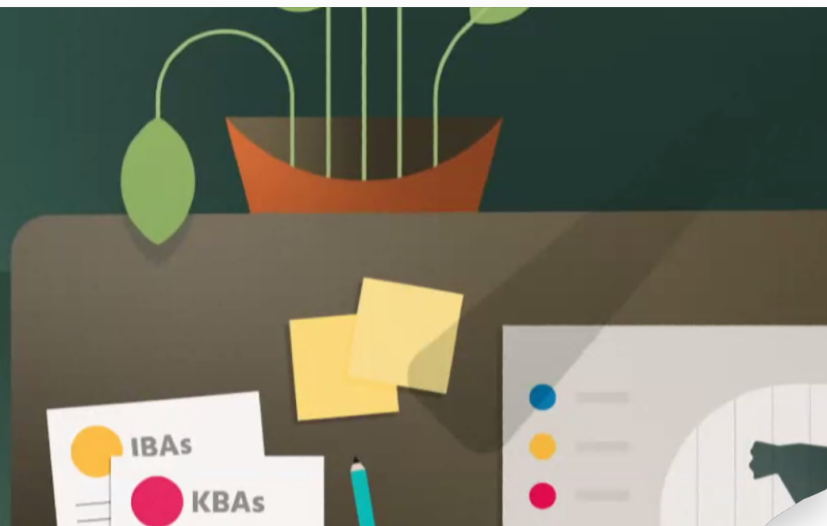
Overview



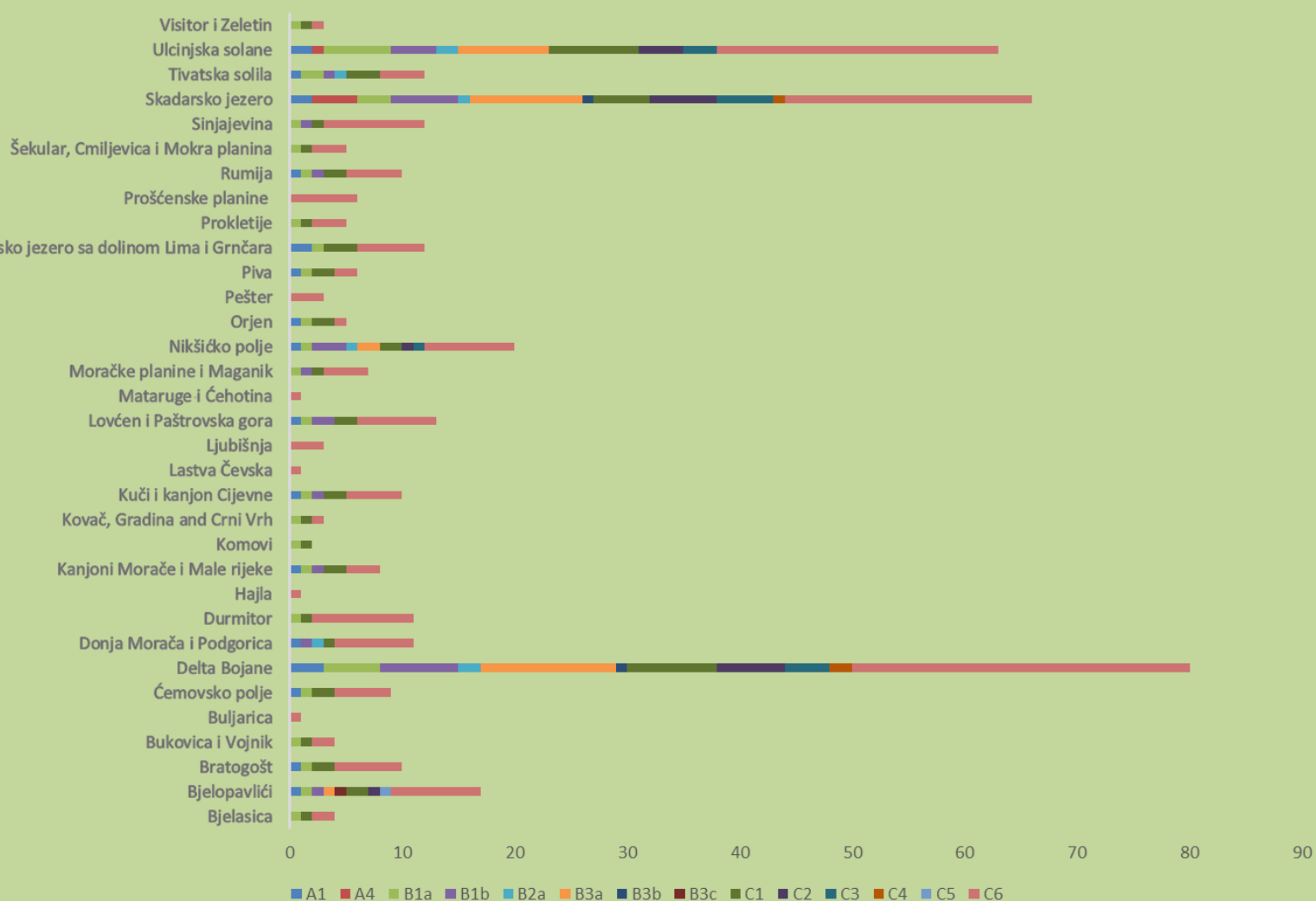
At present, in Montenegro, the officially designated protected areas encompass 13.22% of the country's land, while the marine areas make up a mere 1.87% of the total surface area. There exist 80 protected areas, each falling under various categories of protection, with the five national parks constituting the largest portions. However, a significant challenge lies in the limited administrative capacities for nature conservation, whether it be at the Ministry level, within municipalities, or even among management bodies. The situation becomes even more problematic when considering that only 53 protected areas have established management bodies, and out of those, only 22 have conducted comprehensive protection studies.

Prior to this revision, Montenegro had only five officially designated Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), established in 1989 and 2001. These sites either remain as standalone IBAs or have been incorporated into larger IBAs for their respective areas. Currently, Montenegro boasts a total of 33 IBA sites, covering 54% of the country's territory. While this achievement is impressive, it also presents significant challenges in terms of monitoring and conservation efforts.

Overview

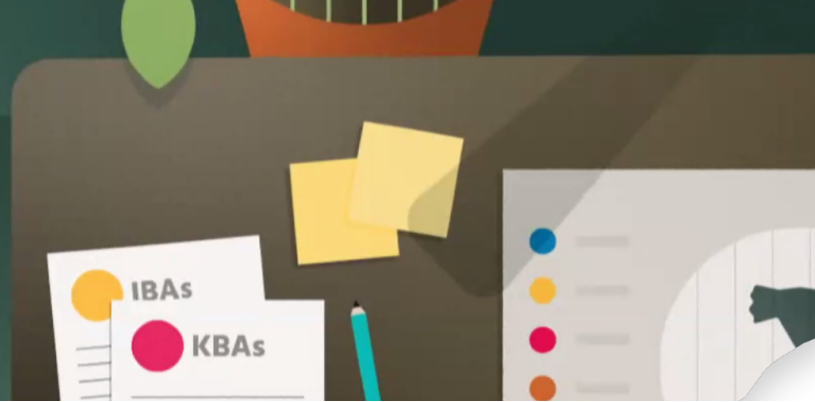


- Total IBAs: 33 sites
- Total area IBAs: 746,287 ha
- % of the country covered by IBAs: 54%
- Trigger species*: 72



*Trigger species: Bird species that occur at a site in sufficient numbers during one or more seasons (winter; migration; breeding)

A closer look at the criteria



Criteria	Description	% of sites
A1	The site is known or thought regularly to hold significant numbers of a Globally Threatened species	48
A4	The site is known or thought to hold congregations of ≥1% of the global population of one or more species on a regular or predictable basis.	9
B1a	The site regularly holds significant numbers of a Near Threatened species (NT)	73
B1b	The site is one of the 'n' most important in a country for a species with an unfavourable conservation status in the region, and for which the site protection approach is thought to be appropriate	39
B2a	The site is one of the 'n' most important in a country for a species with a favourable conservation status in a region, but with its global range concentrated in that region , and for which the site protection approach is thought to be appropriate	18
B3a	The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥ 1% of a biogeographic or other distinct population of a congregatory waterbird, breeding seabird or other distinct population of a congregatory waterbird, breeding seabird or other species	15
B3b	Site known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥ 20,000 waterbirds or ≥ 6,700 pairs of seabirds of one or more species	6
B3c	Site known or thought to exceed thresholds set for migratory species at bottleneck sites	3
C1	The site regularly holds significant numbers of a globally threatened species , or other species of global conservation concern	79
C2	The site is known to regularly hold at least 1% of the flyway or EU population of a species considered to be threatened in the EU	15
C3	The site is known to regularly hold at least 1% of a flyway population of a migratory species that is not considered to be threatened in the EU	12
C4	The site is known to regularly hold at least 20,000 migratory waterbirds , or at least 6,700 pairs of migratory seabirds , of one or more species	6
C5	The site is a bottleneck site where at least 5,000 storks (ciconiidae) or at least 3,000 migratory raptors (accipitriformes and falconiformes) or cranes (gruidae), regularly pass during spring or autumn migration	3
C6	The site is one of the five most important sites in the European region in question for a species or sub species considered threatened in the EU	97

Bjelasica

ME001

- Area: 31,816 ha
- Protection status: the site overlaps with Biogradska gora National Park
- Main habitats: forests and grasslands

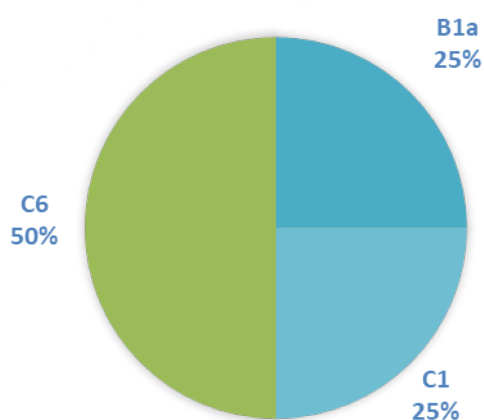
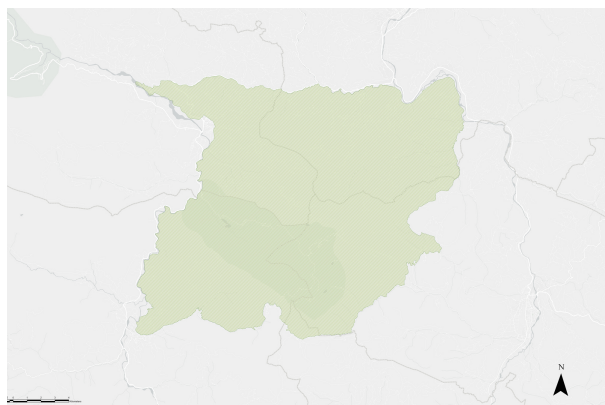


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	100	200	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	LC	2016	145	290	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	LC	2016	220	440	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6

Bjelopavlići ME002

- Area: 20,575 ha
- Protection Status: not protected
- Main habitat: forests and agricultural areas

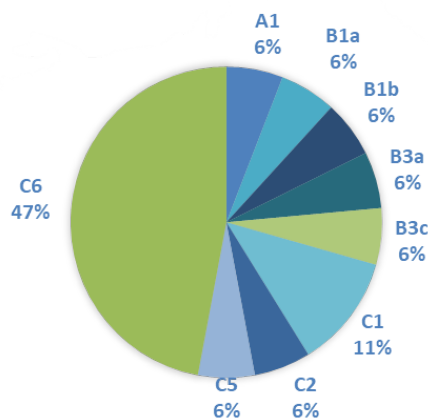
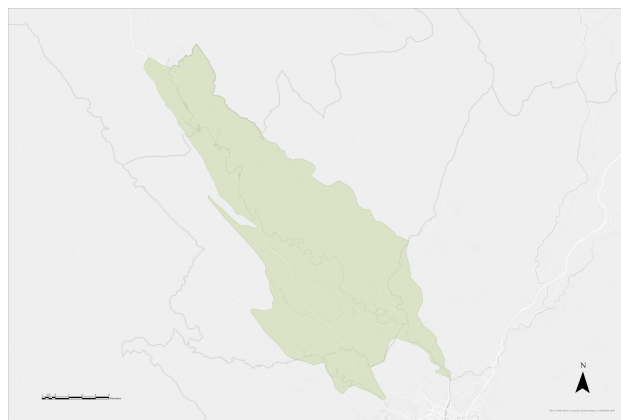


Photo: Grus grus_Tomáš Bělka CC BY-NC-SA

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	LC	2016	15	20	breeding pairs	breeding	2.	B1b, C6
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC	2016	30	40	breeding pairs	breeding	2.	C6
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	LC	2016	10	15	breeding pairs	resident	3.	C6
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	LC	2016	10	99	individuals	non-breeding	5.	C6
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	LC		2	3	breeding pairs	breeding	4.	C6
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	LC	2016	100	150	breeding pairs	breeding	1.	C6
<i>Grus grus</i>	LC	2016	3000	4065	individuals	passage	2.	B3a, B3c, C2, C5, C6
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC	2016	8	8	breeding pairs	breeding	3.	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	162	323	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	NT	2016	100	100	individuals	resident		B1a, C1

Delta Bojane

ME003

- Area: 9,600 ha
- Protection status: the site overlaps with Velika plaža Monument of Nature (600 ha)
- Main habitats: wetlands, marine coastal and agricultural areas

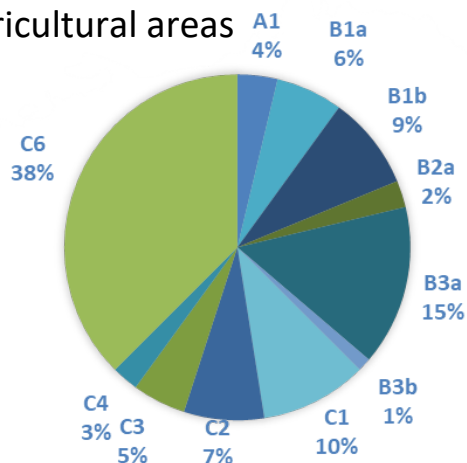
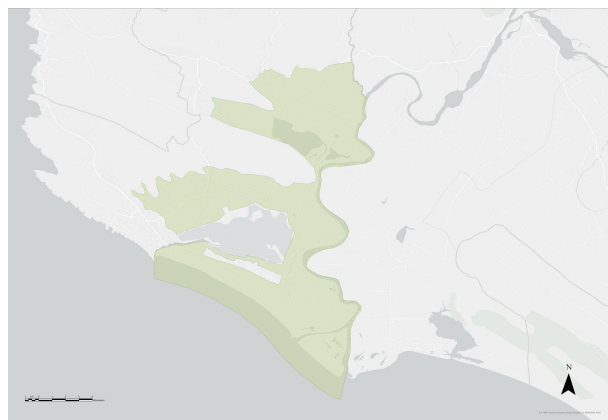


Photo: Bojan Zeković CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	LC	2016	11	40	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	B1b, C6
<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	LC	2016	100	100	individuals	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC	2016	9	30	breeding pairs	breeding		C6
<i>Ardea alba</i>	LC	2004	78	135	individuals	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	LC	2016	14	14	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	LC	2007	79	104	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	B1b, C6
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	VU	2016	1962	1962	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (3.)	A1, B1b, C1
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	NT	2016	1900	1900	individuals	resident		B1a, B1b, B3a, C1, C2, C6
<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	LC	2016	10	20	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	LC	2016	600	600	individuals	non-breeding		C6
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	LC	2016	113	113	breeding pairs	resident	#top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	LC	2016	20	30	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	LC	2016	61	73	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	LC	2016	42	42	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	2016	204	281	-	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	B3a, C6
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	LC	2016	100	110	individuals	non-breeding		B3a, C2, C6
<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	LC	2017	5	10	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	B1b, C6
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	NT	2016	774	774	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (1.)	B1a, C1
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	LC	2016	35	45	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	LC	2016	9000	36000	individuals	non-breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	A4, B3a, C2, C6
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	LC	2016	5	20	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	LC	2016	6000	6000	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (1.)	B3a, C2, C6
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	NT	2016	1609	1609	individuals	-		B1a, B3a, C1, C3
<i>Mareca penelope</i>	LC	2016	4300	4300	individuals	non-breeding		B3a, C3
<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	VU	2016	100	111	individuals	non-breeding		A1, C1
<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>	LC	2016	30	420	breeding pairs	-	Top 5 sites (2.)	B2a, B3a, C2, C6
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	NT	2016	1176	1176	individuals	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC	2016	35	39	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	NT	2016	23	23	individuals	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	B1b, C6
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	LC	2016	16	35	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (2.)	B2a, C6
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC	2016	15	40	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	LC	2016	37	37	individuals	non-breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	LC	2016	79	372	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	LC	2016	8892	11033	individuals	resident		B3a, C3
<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	LC	2016	20000	63533	individuals	-		A4, B3a, C3, C4
<i>Species group - waterbirds</i>	n/a	2016	53238	132568	individuals	-		B3b, C4
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	LC	2016	50	300	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	LC	2016	300	300	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	75	150	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	NT	2016	52	52	individuals	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Zapornia pusilla</i>	LC	2016	55	70	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	B1b, B3a, C2, C6

Bratogošt

ME004

- Area: 49,225 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Habitat: forest and grassland

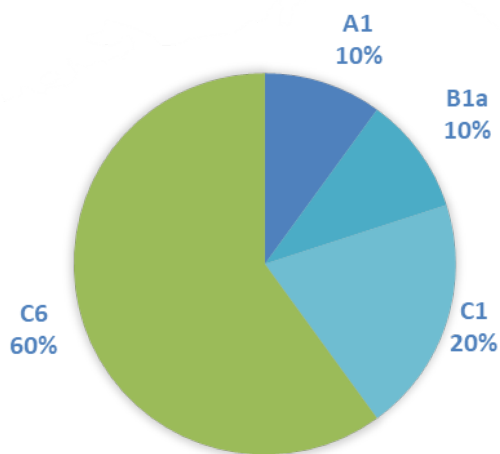
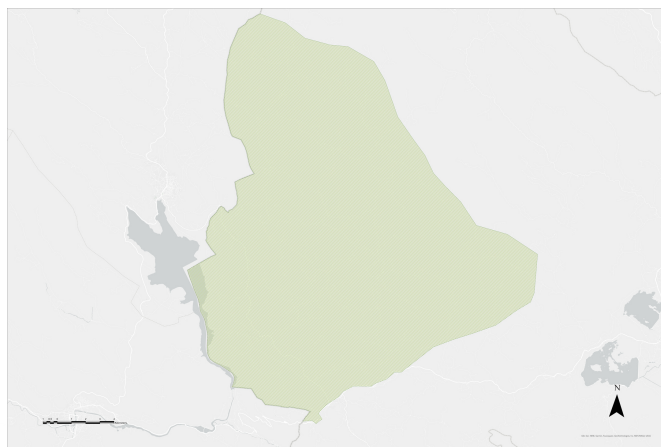


Photo: Jovana Drobniak CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	135	200	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	LC	2016	44	88	breeding pairs	breeding	4.	C6
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	LC	2022	2	3	breeding pairs	breeding	4.	C6
<i>Curruca nisoria</i>	LC	2016	861	1722	breeding pairs	breeding	1.	C6
<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	LC	2016	100	300	breeding pairs	breeding	1.	C6
<i>Lanius minor</i>	LC	2016	10	20	breeding pairs	breeding	3.	C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	LC	2016	638	1277	breeding pairs	breeding	1.	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	23	47	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1

Bukovica and Vojnik ME005

- Area: 11,197 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: Forests, grasslands and agricultural areas

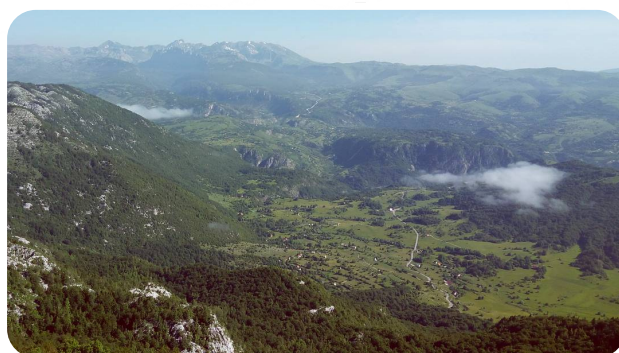
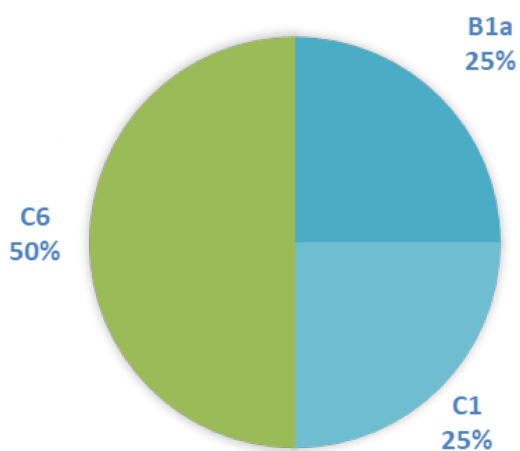
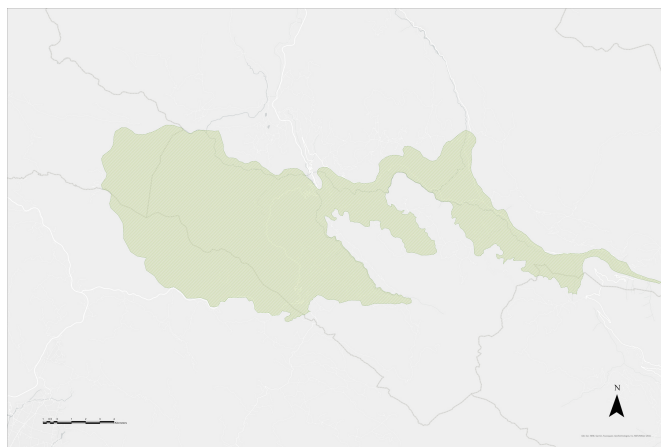


Photo: Bojan Zeković CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	100	150	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Crex crex</i>	LC	2016	5	7	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6
<i>Curruca nisoria</i>	LC	2016	205	411	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6

Buljarica ME006

- Area: 205 ha
- Protection status: Buljarica beach Monument of Nature
- Main habitats: forests, reed bed (wetland), agricultural areas, and marine coast

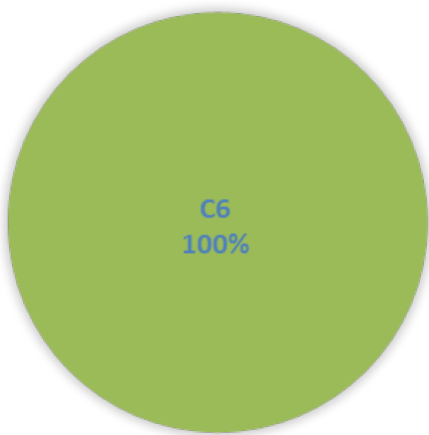
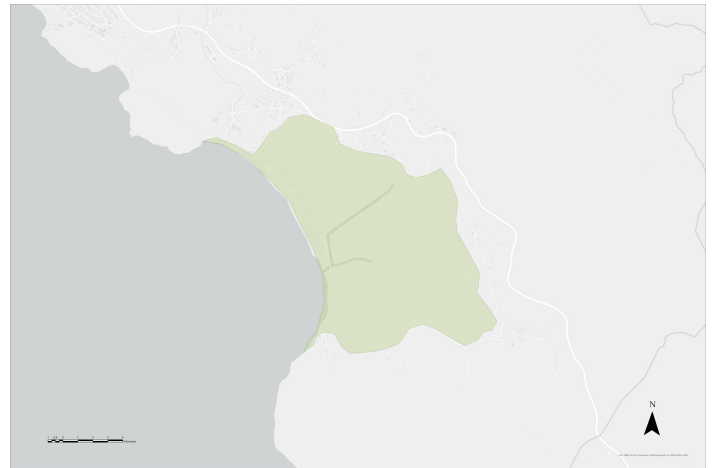


Photo: *Acrocephalus melanopogon*_Marija Šoškić Popović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	LC	2016	400	800	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6



Ćemovsko polje

ME007

- Area: 924 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: Pastures and grasslands

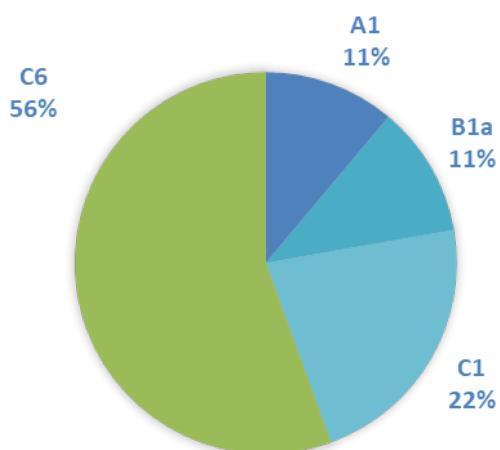
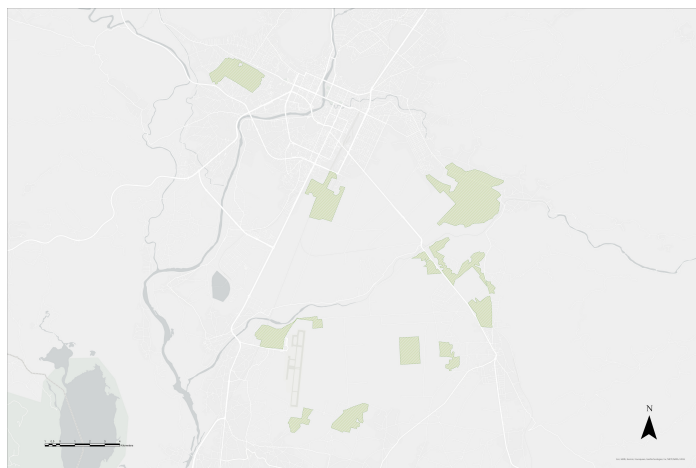


Photo: Marija Šoškić Popović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	LC	2016	35	40	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	LC	2016	10	20	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	LC	2016	150	170	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	VU	2016	20	30	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (1.)	A1, C1, C6
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	LC	2016	70	80	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	NT	2016	500	1000	individuals	resident		B1a, C1

Durmitor

ME008

- Area: 51,445 ha
- Protection status: National Park and World Heritage Site
- Main habitat: forest, grassland, rocky areas, pastures, and agricultural areas

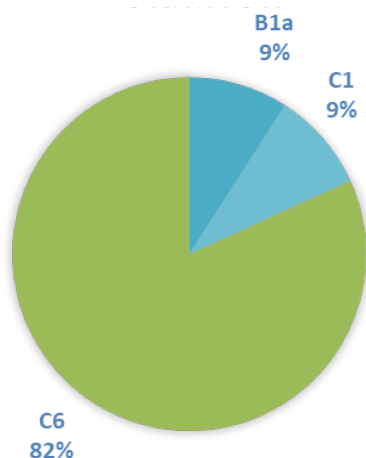
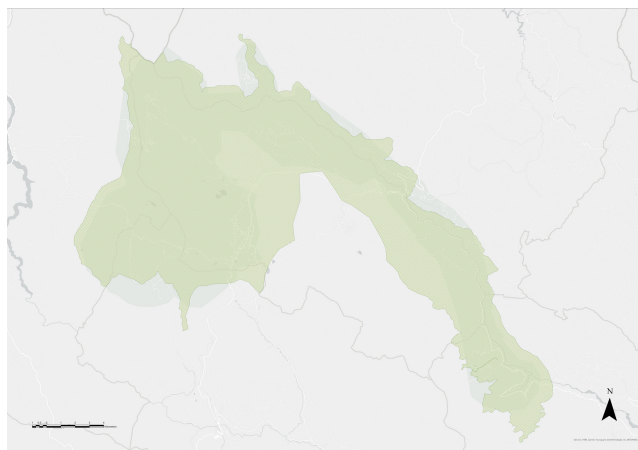


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	LC	2016	91	91	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC	2016	5	10	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	100	150	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	LC	2016	4	6	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	LC	2016	48	48	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	LC	2016	18	18	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	LC	2016	217	434	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	LC	2016	204	204	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	LC	2016	252	252	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	LC	2016	244	244	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6

Hajla

ME009

- Area: 9115 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forests and grasslands

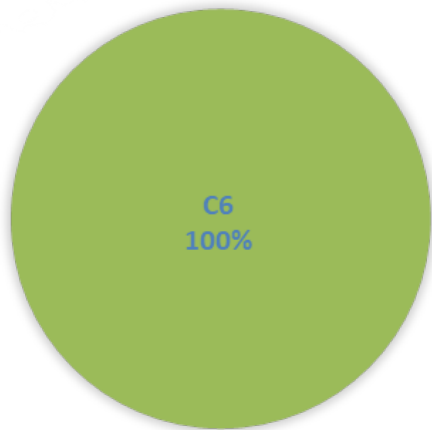
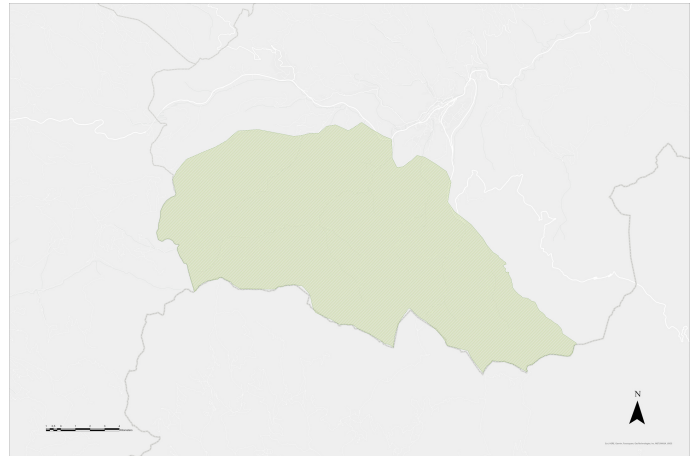


Photo: *Aegolius funereus*_Petr Šaj CC BY-NC-ND

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	LC	2016	61	122	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6



Komovi

ME010

- Area: 27,663 ha
- Protection status: Nature park Komovi
- Main habitats: forests, rocky areas, and agricultural areas

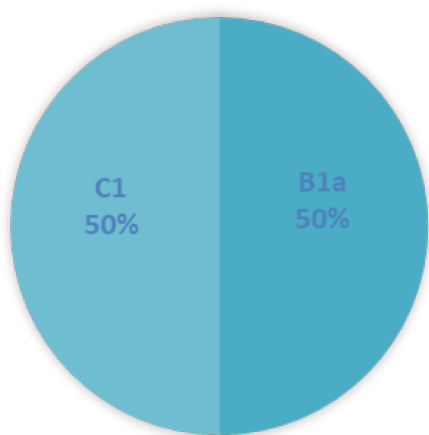
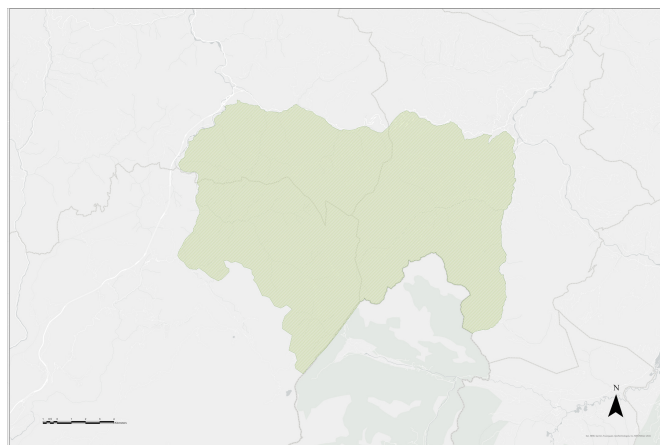


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	150	200	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1



Kovač, Gradina and Crni Vrh ME011

- Area: 21,007 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: pastures, agricultural areas, forests, and grasslands

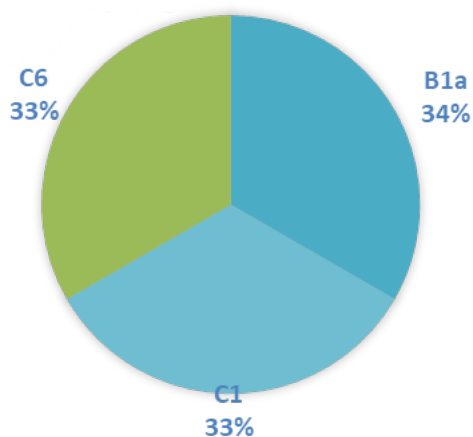
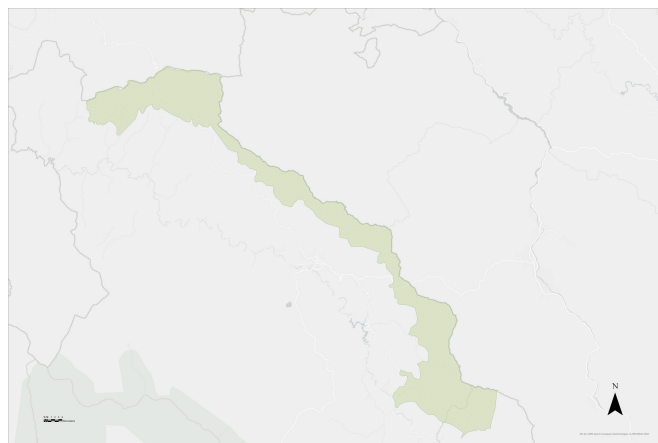


Photo: *Alectoris graeca*_Zdeněk Tunka CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	120	175	breeding pairs	breeding		B1a, C1
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	LC	2016	5	10	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6

Kuči i kanjon Cijevne ME012

- Area: 39,120 ha
- Protection status: Cijevna canyon Natural Monument
- Main habitats: forests, grasslands, rocky areas, and agricultural areas

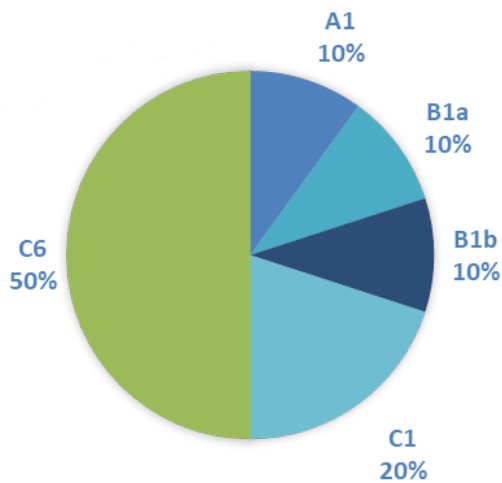
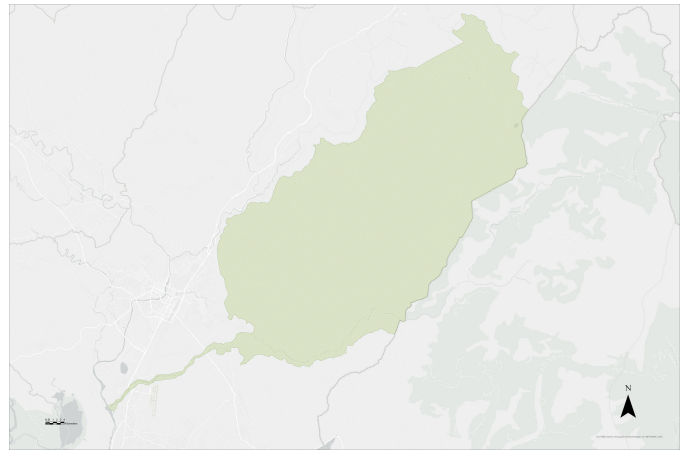


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	400	500	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	B1a, B1b, C1, C6
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	LC	2016	10	20	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	LC	2016	2	5	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	LC	2016	151	301	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	LC	2016	298	596	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	100	199	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1

Plavsko jezero sa dolinom Lima i Grnčara ME013

- Area: 8,912ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: agricultural and cultivation areas, forests, grasslands, wetlands

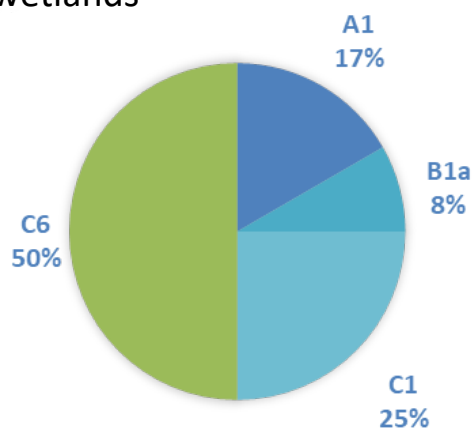
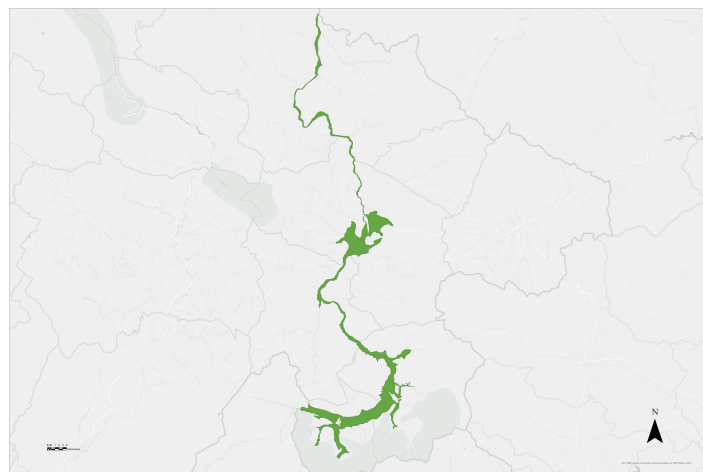


Photo: Bojan Zeković CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC	2016	20	30	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	VU	2016	135	135	individuals	passage		A1, C1
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	LC	2016	5	20	males	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6
<i>Crex crex</i>	LC	2016	20	25	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Curruca nisoria</i>	LC	2016	253	505	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	LC	2016	2	5	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Lanius minor</i>	LC	2016	10	15	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	23	45	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	NT	2016	200	200	individuals	-		B1a, C1

Ljubišnja

ME014

- Area: 11,541 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forest and grassland

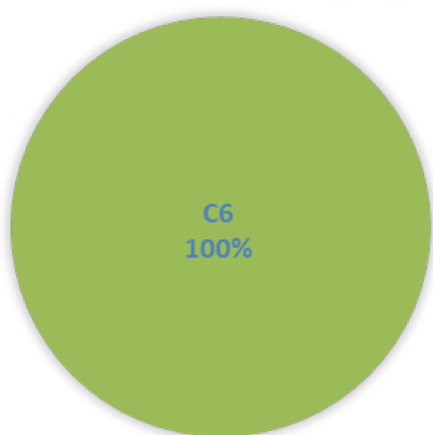
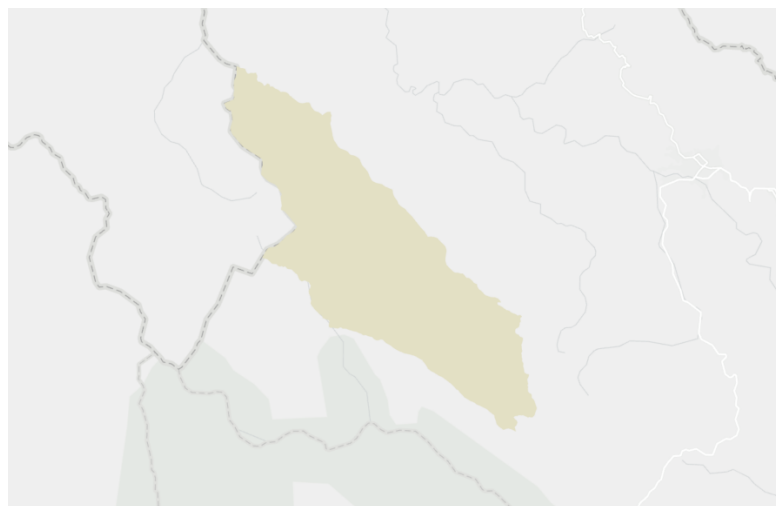


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	LC	2016	22	44	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	LC	2016	33	67	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	LC	2016	20	20	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6



Lovćen i Paštrovska gora ME015

- Area: 31,190 ha
- Protection status: the site overlaps with the Lovćen National Park
- Main habitats: Forest, rocky areas and agricultural areas

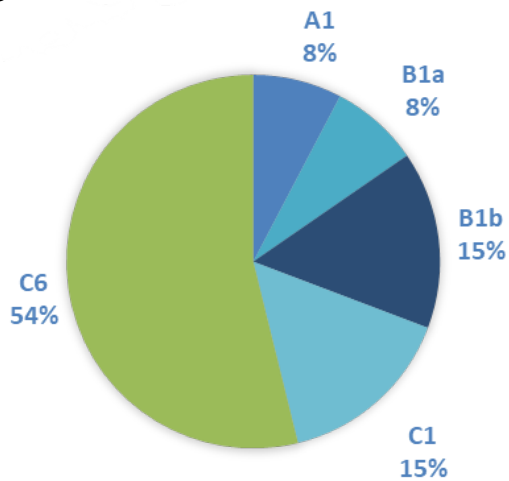
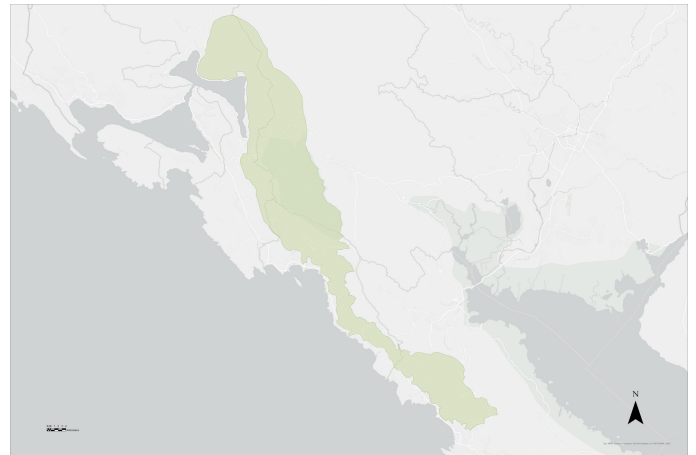


Photo: Bojan Zeković CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	LC	2016	10	15	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	B1b, C1
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	300	400	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (2.)	B1a, B1b, C1, C6
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	LC	2016	3	5	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	LC	2016	20	25	males	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	LC	2016	3	5	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	LC	2016	20	50	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 areas (4.)	C6
<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	LC	2016	20	30	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	39	78	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C6

Mataruge i Čehotina ME016

- Area: 7,953 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forests, wetlands, and agricultural areas

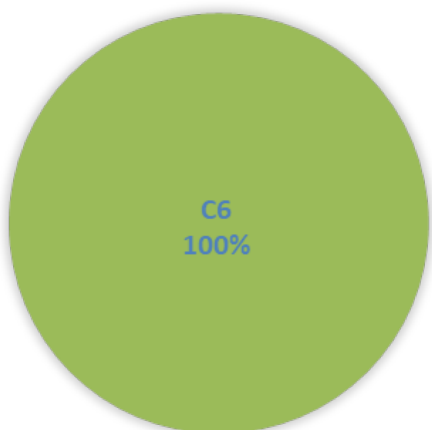
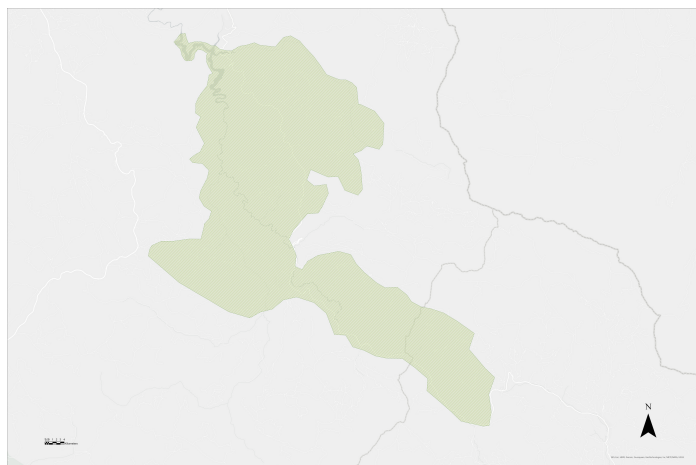


Photo: *Crex crex*_Petr Saj CC BY-NC-ND

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Crex crex</i>	LC	2016	20	25	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6



Kanjoni Morače i Male rijeke ME017

- Area: 27,663 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forests, agricultural areas, and rocky areas

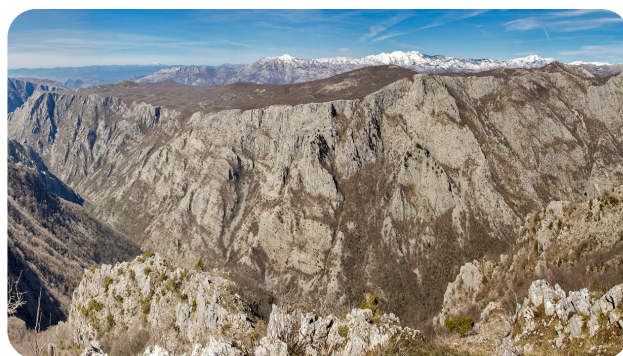
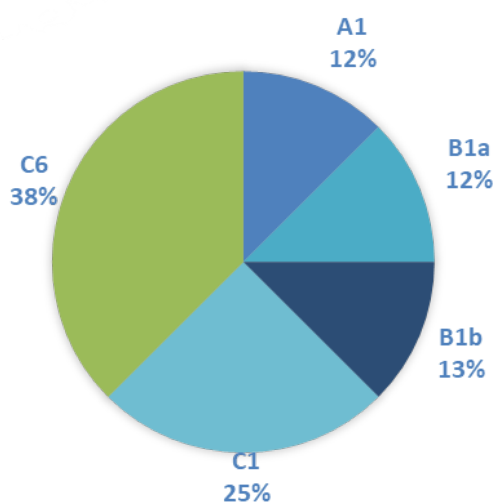
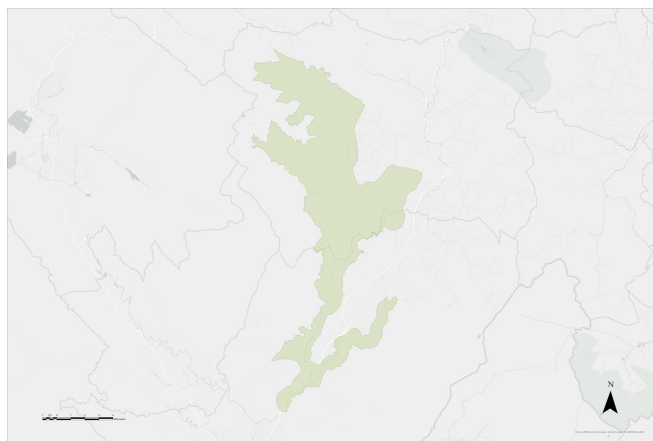


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	190	230	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (5.)	B1a, B1b, C1, C6
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	LC	2016	5	8	breeding pairs	resident	top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	LC	2016	247	494	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	87	174	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1

Moračke planine i Maganik ME018

- Area: 41,008 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: shrublands, forests, rocky areas, and agricultural areas

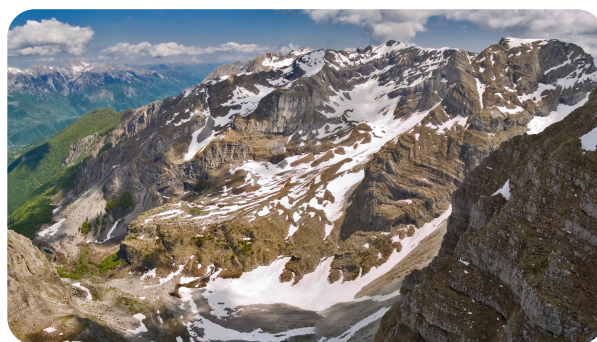
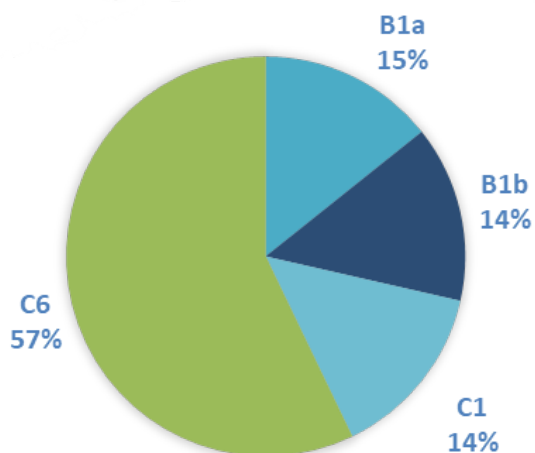
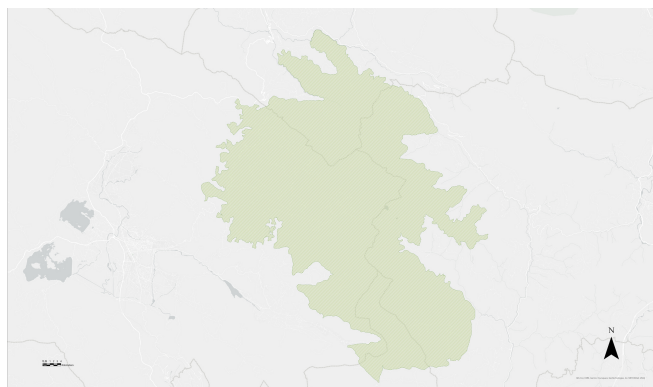


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	240	360	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	B1a, B1b, C1, C6
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	LC	2016	104	209	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Crex crex</i>	LC	2016	10	15	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	LC	2016	122	245	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6

Nikšičko polje ME019

- Area: 6,041 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: grasslands, wetlands, pastures, and agricultural areas

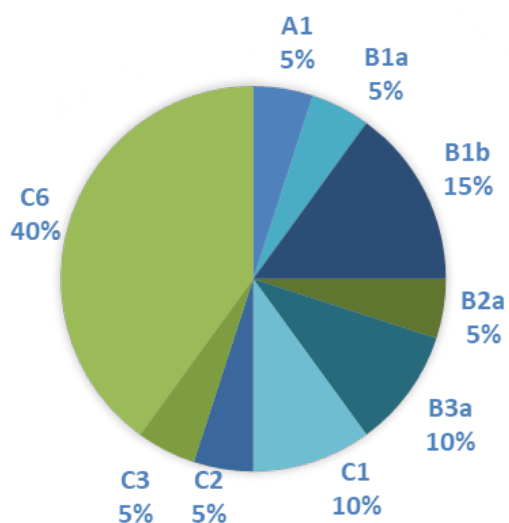
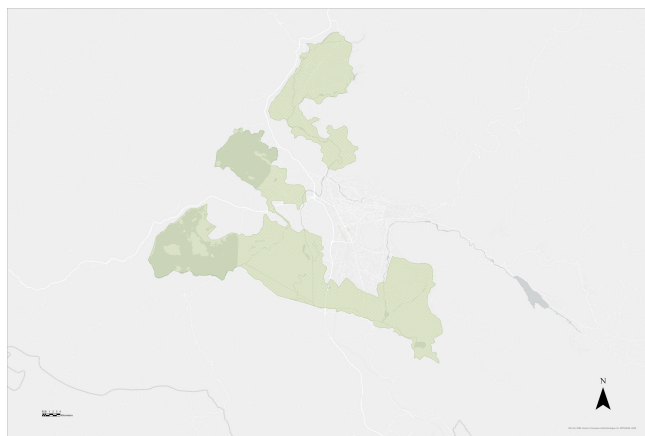


Photo: Bojan Zeković CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	LC	2016	15	15	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	B1b, C6
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	VU	2016	9000	9000	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (2.)	A1, B1b, B3a, C1, C3
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	NT	2016	2	2	individuals	resident	Top 5 sites(4.)	B1b, C6
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	LC	2016	500	590	individuals	-	Top 5 areas (2.)	C6
<i>Crex crex</i>	LC	2019	5	5	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Curruca nisoria</i>	LC	2016	274	548	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Grus grus</i>	LC	2016	500	4065	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (1.)	B3a, C2, C6
<i>Lanius minor</i>	LC	2016	30	50	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>	LC	2016	100	155	individuals	passage	Top 5 areas (4.)	B2a, C6
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	NT	2016	1000	1351	individuals	resident		B1a, C1

Lastva Čevska

ME020

- Area: 1,960 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forests and grasslands

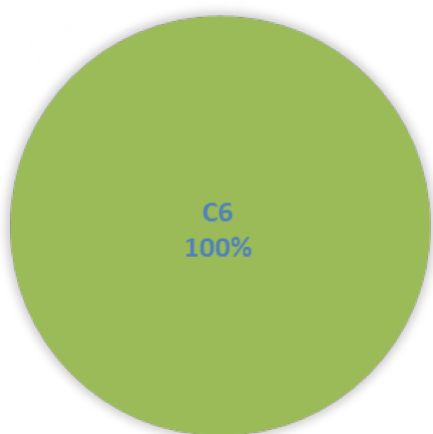
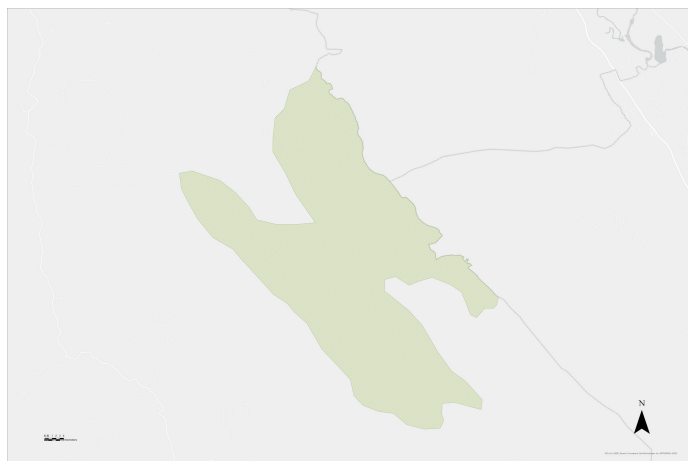


Photo: Emberiza hortulana_Zdeněk Tunka CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	LC	2016	20	40	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6

Donja Morača i Podgorica ME021

- Area: 2,654 ha
- Protection status: the site overlaps with the Natural monument Pećina Magara.
- Main habitat: urban fabric, cultivation, arable land, green urban areas, and water courses

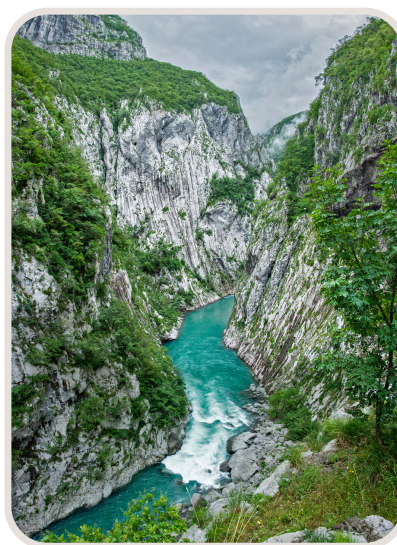
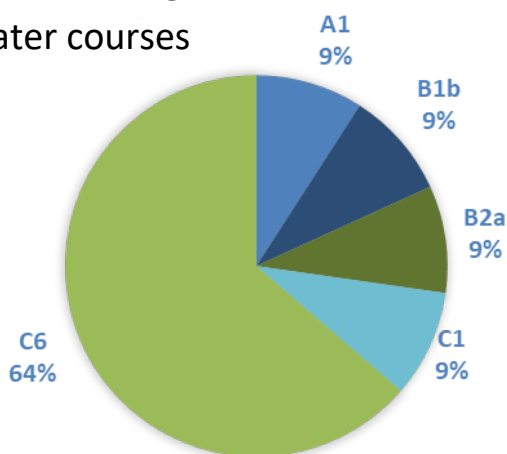
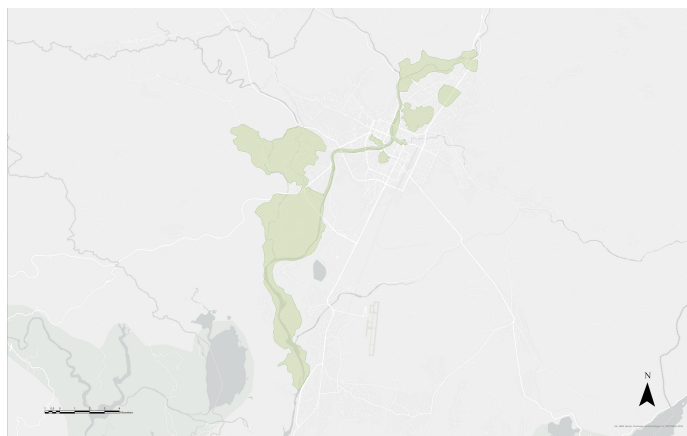


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	LC	2016	15	15	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	B1b, C6
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	LC	2016	15	15	individuals	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	2016	15	50	individuals	non-breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6
<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>	LC	2016	100	100	individuals	resident	Top 5 areas (5.)	B2a, C6
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC	2016	15	15	individuals	passage	Top 5 areas (5.)	C6
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC	2016	15	15	individuals	-	Top 5 areas (4.)	C6
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	LC	2016	15	15	individuals	-	Top 5 areas (4.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	45	90	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1

Orjen ME022

- Area: 32,502 ha
- Protection status: this site overlaps with Orjen National Park
- Main habitats: forest, rocky areas, grasslands, pastures, and agricultural areas

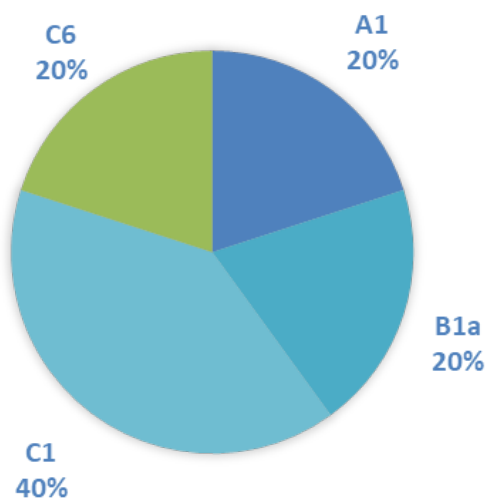


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	50	150	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Grus grus</i>	LC	2016	395	395	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	46	92	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1

Pešter

ME023

- Area: 12,294 ha
- Protection status: this site overlaps with Đalovića Klisura Natural Monument
- Main habitats: forests, rocky areas, grasslands, and pastures

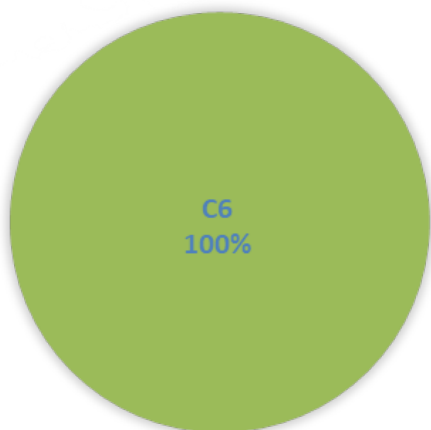
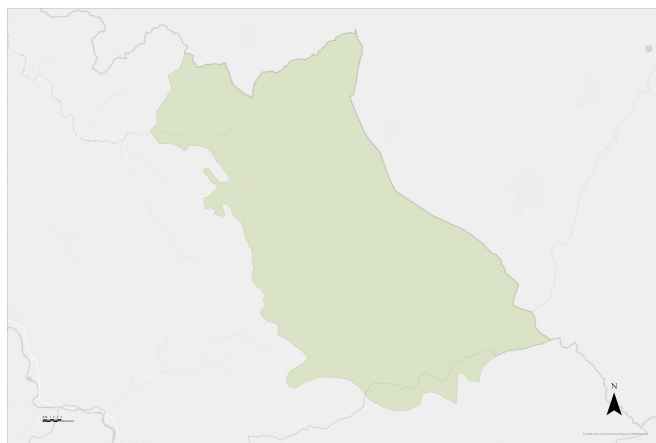


Photo: Marija Šoškić Popović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Curruca nisoria</i>	LC	2016	218	435	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6
<i>Lanius minor</i>	LC	2016	10	15	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	LC	2016	207	415	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6

Piva

ME024

- Area: 50,438 ha
- Protection status: this site overlaps with Piva Nature Park
- Main habitats: forests, grasslands, wetlands, rocky areas, and agricultural areas

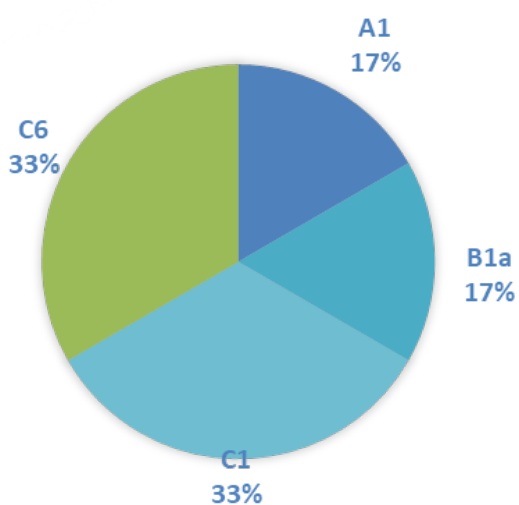
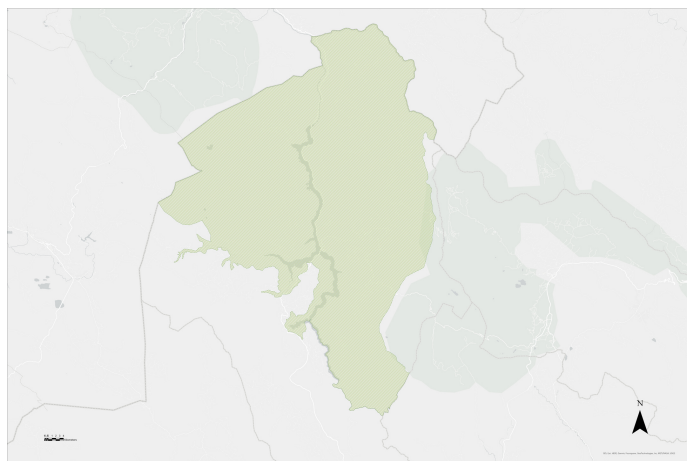


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	100	300	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	LC	2016	3	4	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	23	46	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	LC	2016	5	5	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6

Prokletije ME025

- Area: 22,067 ha
- Protection status: this site overlaps with Prokletije National park
- Main habitats: Forests, grasslands, rocky areas, and agricultural areas

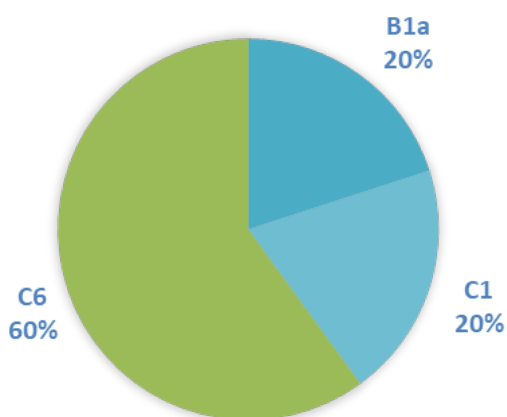
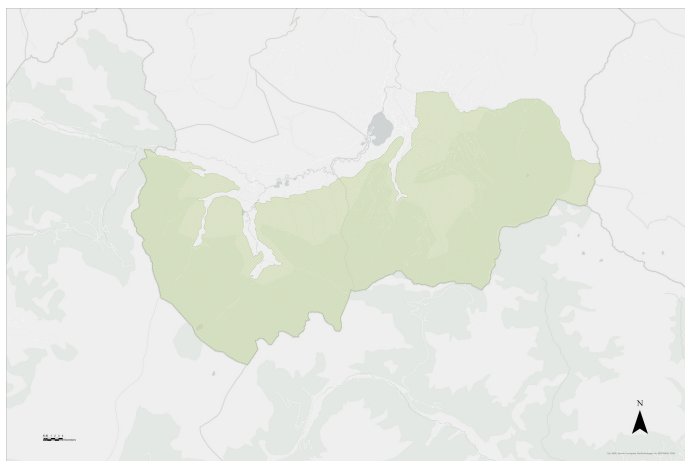


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	60	120	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	LC	2016	143	286	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6
<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	LC	2016	60	85	males	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	LC	2016	195	390	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6

Prošćenske planine

ME026

- Area: 46,752 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forests, grasslands, and pastures

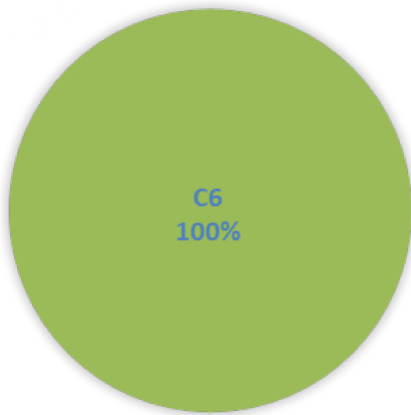
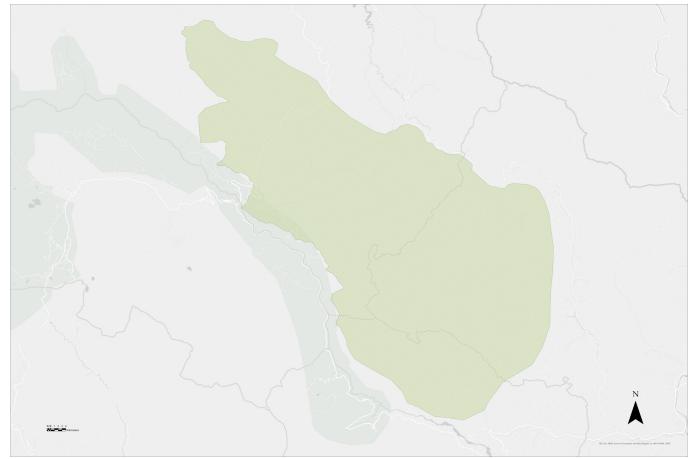


Photo: Glaucidium passerinum_Marija Šoškić Popović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	LC	2016	236	473	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	LC	2016	46	93	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	LC	2016	169	338	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	LC	2016	148	297	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	LC	2016	40	70	males	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	LC	2016	345	690	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6

Rumija

ME027

- Area: 27,784 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forests, grasslands, and cultivation areas

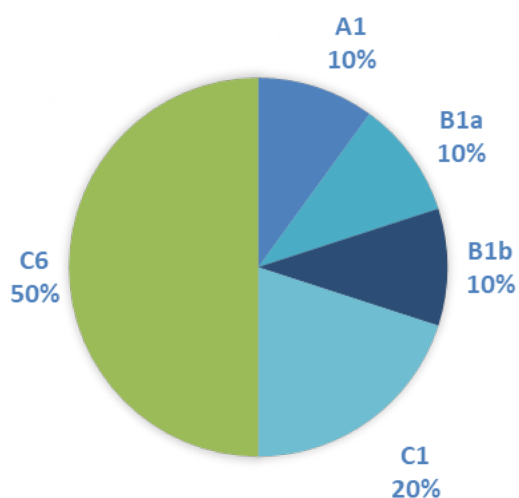
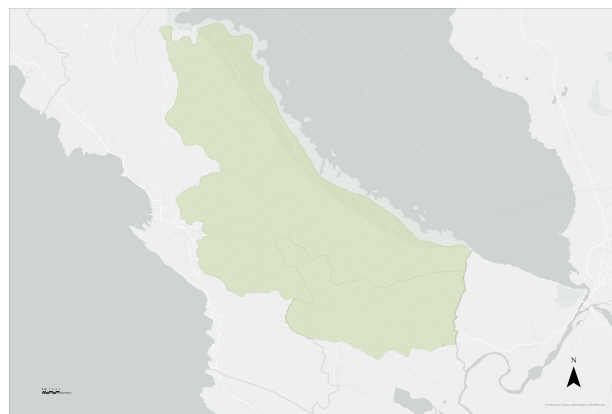


Photo: Bojan Zeković CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	LC	2016	10	15	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	B1b, C6
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	160	320	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	LC	2016	13	15	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	LC	2016	2	4	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	LC	2016	30	30	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	LC	2016	10	15	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	158	316	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1

Šekular, Cmiljevica i Mokra planina ME028

- Area: 31,868 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forests, grasslands, rocky areas, and pastures

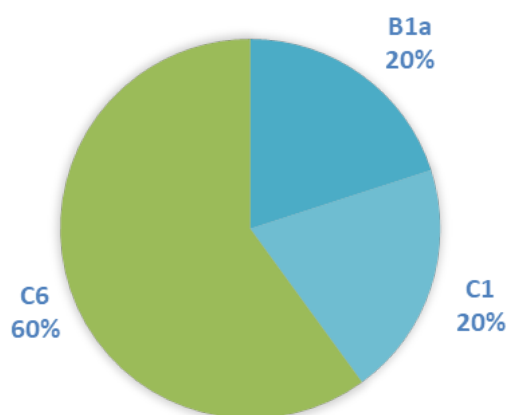
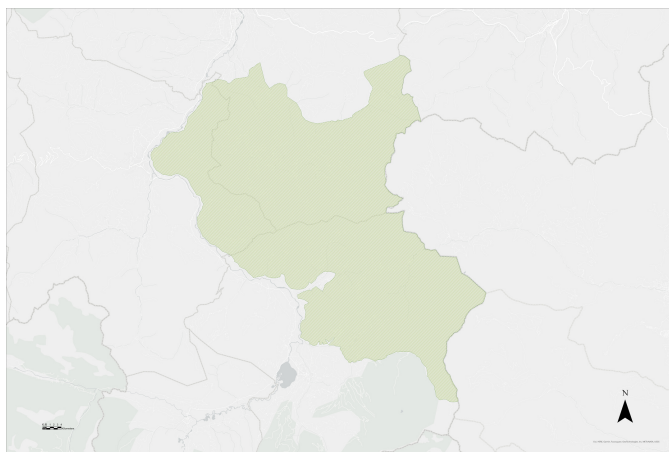


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	100	200	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	LC	2016	59	119	breeding pairs	breeding		C6
<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	LC	2016	187	375	breeding pairs	breeding		C6
<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	LC	2016	45	60	males	breeding		C6

Sinjajevina

ME029

- Area: 48,671 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forests, grasslands, rocky areas, and agricultural areas

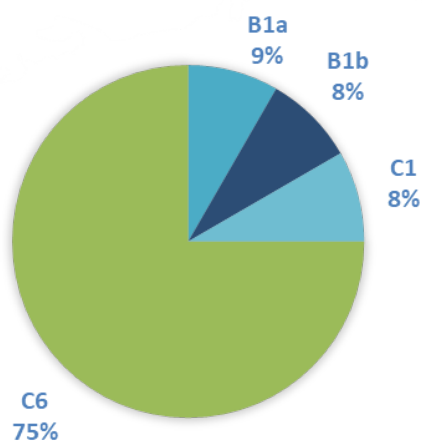
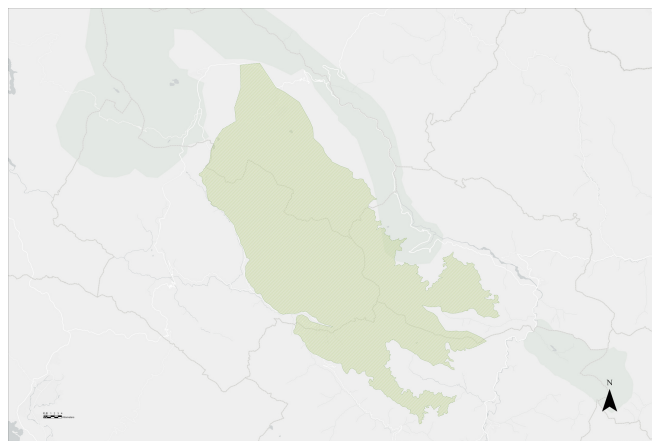


Photo: Igor Stojović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	LC	2016	72	72	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	200	300	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (4.)	B1a, B1b, C1, C6
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	LC	2016	183	365	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	LC	2016	38	38	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	LC	2016	15	15	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	LC	2016	178	357	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	LC	2016	257	257	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	LC	2016	214	214	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	LC	2016	191	191	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6

Skadarsko jezero ME030

- Area: 40,000 ha
- Protection status: National park and Ramsar Site, Wetland of International Importance
- Main habitats: forests, grasslands, wetlands, and pastures

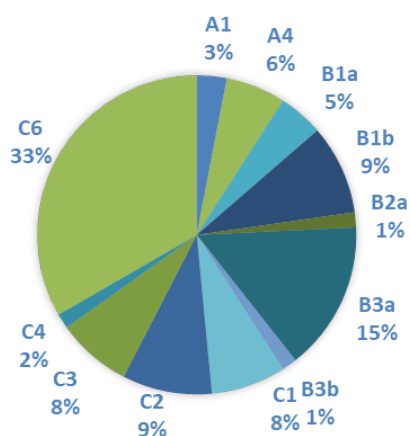
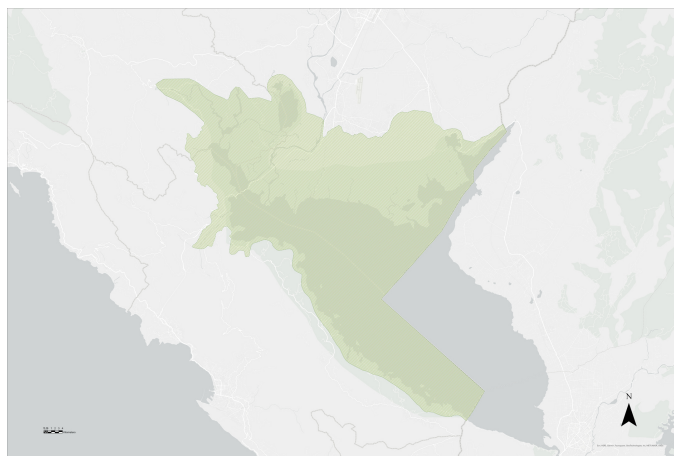


Photo: Bojan Zeković CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	LC	2016	15	20	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	B1b, C6
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC	2016	30	50	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Ardea alba</i>	LC	2016	363	600	individuals	resident	Top 5 areas (2.)	C6
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	LC	2016	5	10	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	LC	2016	80	120	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	B1b, C6
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	VU	2016	10000	10000	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (1.)	A1, B1b, B3a, C1, C3
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	NT	2016	1035	1035	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (2.)	B1a, B1b, B3a, C1, C2, C6
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	LC	2016	25	40	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	LC	2016	1818	3000	individuals	passage		B3a, C3
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	LC	2016	1	10	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	LC	2016	90	90	individuals	passage	Top 5 areas (4.)	C6
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	LC	2016	1200	1500	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	B3a, C2, C6
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	LC	2016	20	30	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 areas (1.)	C6
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	LC	2016	50	100	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 areas (2.)	C6
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	2016	80	120	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	VU	2016	20	20	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Fulica atra</i>	LC	2016	60856	160000	individuals	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	A4, B1b, B3a, C2, C3
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	LC	2016	40	80	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Lanius minor</i>	LC	2016	20	25	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>	LC	2016	11800	11800	individuals	passage	Top 5 areas (1.)	A4, B2a, B3a, C2, C6
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC	2016	15	20	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 areas (2.)	C6
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	NT	2016	150	241	individuals	resident	Top 5 areas (2.)	A4, B1a, B1b, B3a, C1, C2, C6
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	LC	2016	10000	20000	individuals	resident		B3a, C3
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC	2016	60	80	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 areas (1.)	C6
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	LC	2016	12561	12561	individuals	resident	Top 5 sites (1.)	A4, B3a, C2, C6
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	LC	2016	5000	5000	individuals	resident		B3a, C3
<i>Species group - waterbirds</i>		2016	116722	226195	individuals	winter		B3b, C4
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	LC	2016	50	100	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 areas (1.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	164	329	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	NT	2016	271	1000	individuals	-		B1a, C1

Tivatska solila ME031

- Area: 127 ha
- Protection status: Ramsar Site, Wetland of International Importance
- Main habitats: wetlands, shrubland, and agricultural areas

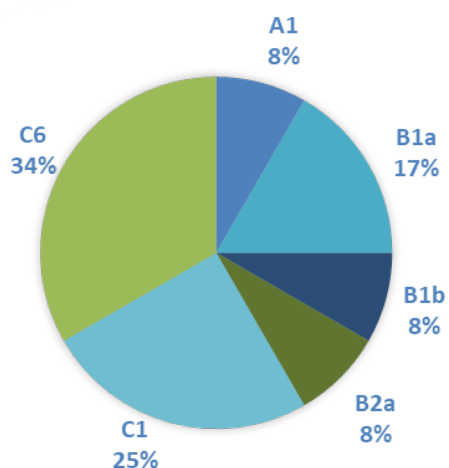
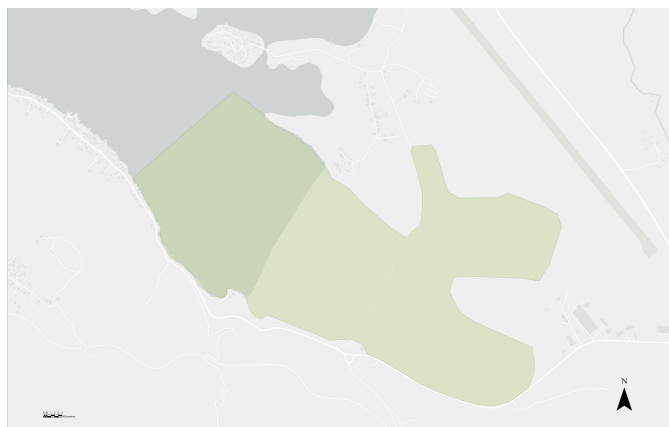


Photo: Marija Soškić Popović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	VU	2016	200	200	individuals	winter	Top 5 sites (5.)	A1, B1b, C1
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	2016	12	15	individuals	resident	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Grus grus</i>	LC	2016	140	140	individuals	passage	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	LC	2016	56	56	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	NT	2016	350	350	individuals	passage		B1a, C1
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	LC	2016	13	13	individuals	-	Top 5 areas (3.)	B2a, C6
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	NT	2016	50	50	individuals	resident		B1a, C1

Ulcinjnska solana

ME032

- Area: 1477 ha
- Protection status: Nature park and Ramsar Site, Wetland of International Importance
- Main habitats: wetlands, shrublands, and agricultural areas

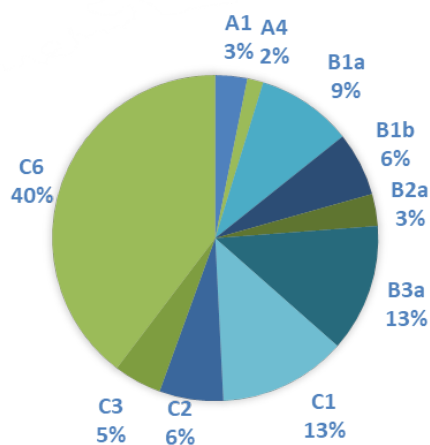


Photo: Slavko Nikolić

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Ardea alba</i>	LC	2016	501	507	individuals	resident	Top 5 areas (1.)	C6
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	LC	2016	9	9	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	LC	2016	11	11	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (5.)	C6
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	VU	2016	1248	1248	individuals	resident	Top 5 sites (4.)	A1, B1b, C1
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	NT	2016	45	45	individuals	resident	Top 5 sites (3.)	B1a, B1b, C1, C6
<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	LC	2016	13	22	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 areas (1.)	C6
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	NT	2016	734	734	individuals	breeding		B1a, C1
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	LC	2016	2168	2618	individuals	passage	Top 5 areas (1.)	C6
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	LC	2016	70	130	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 areas (1.)	C6

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	LC	2016	5	5	breeding pairs	-	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	LC	2016	30	30	individuals	resident	Top 5 areas (3.)	C6
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	LC	2016	8	8	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	2016	457	680	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (2.)	B3a, C6
<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	LC	2016	159	159	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 areas (1.)	B1b, B3a, C2, C6
<i>Grus grus</i>	LC	2016	632	632	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (3.)	C6
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	LC	2016	45	130	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	LC	2016	15	143	individuals	non-breeding	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	NT	2016	960	3423	individuals	-		B1a, B3a, C1, C3
<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>	LC	2016	639	639	individuals	resident	Top 5 areas (3.)	B2a, B3a, C2, C6
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	NT	2016	75	190	individuals	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC	2016	95	95	individuals	-	Top 5 areas (4.)	C6
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	NT	2016	147	147	females	resident	Top 5 areas (1.)	A4, B1a, B1b, B3a, C1, C2, C6
<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	LC	2016	700	2100	individuals	-		B3a, C3
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	LC	2016	100	237	individuals	-	Top 5 areas (1.)	B2a, B3a, C2, C6
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC	2016	181	181	individuals	-	Top 5 areas (2.)	C6
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	LC	2016	600	930	individuals	non-breeding	Top 5 areas (1.)	C6
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	LC	2016	42	101	individuals	-	Top 5 sites (2.)	C6
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	LC	2016	5	80	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 areas (2.)	C6
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	LC	2016	68	150	breeding pairs	breeding	Top 5 areas (1.)	C6
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	VU	2016	10	20	breeding pairs	breeding		A1, C1
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	LC	2016	1331	2249	individuals	non-breeding		B3a, C3
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	LC	2016	486	750	individuals	unknown	Top 5 sites (1.)	C6
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	NT	2016	4143	4143	individuals	resident		B1a, C1

Visitor i Zeletin

ME033

- Area: 14,059 ha
- Protection status: not protected
- Main habitats: forests, grasslands, rocky areas, and agricultural areas

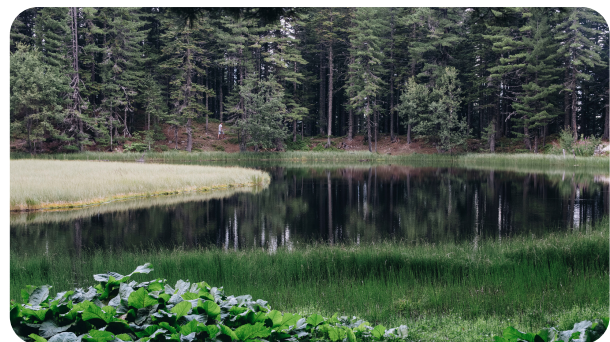
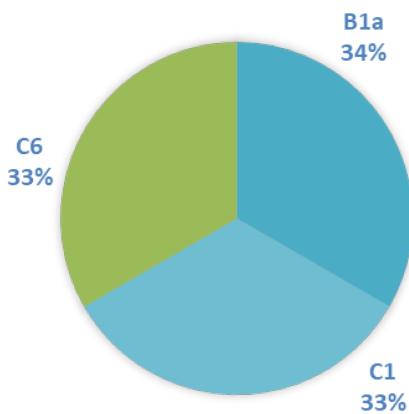
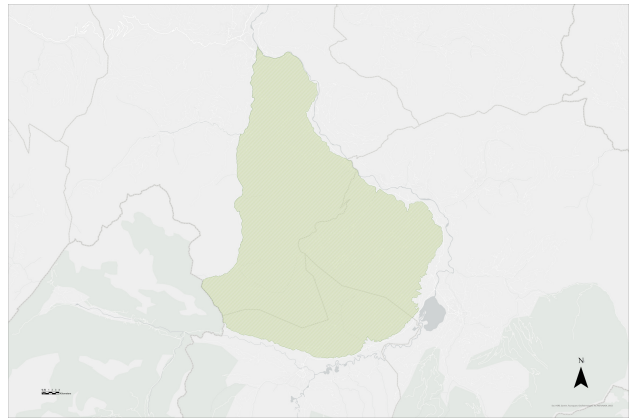


Photo: Marija Šoškić Popović CZIP

Trigger species	IUCN Category	Year	Min	Max	Units	Season	Top 5	Criteria
<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	NT	2016	50	115	breeding pairs	resident		B1a, C1
<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	LC	2016	140	281	breeding pairs	resident	Top 5 sites (4.)	C6



Conclusions



Montenegro, currently the leading candidate for accession to the European Union, is engaged in negotiations and assessments, with a particular focus on Chapter 27 - environment and climate change, which is considered one of the most important and challenging chapters. To address these challenges, Montenegro has been actively working on establishing the Natura 2000 network since 2016. This endeavor has led to focused research, especially in remote areas where data was previously unavailable. In addition, extensive data collection has been carried out through various projects by organizations such as CZIP and their partners, with a particular emphasis on key sites such as Ulcinj Salina, Skadar Lake, Nisicko polje, Durmitor, Tivat Salina, among others. In 2019, the first inventory of potential Special Protection Areas (SPA) was published, serving as a primary data source for this IBA inventory.

The most crucial and challenging aspect of the Natura 2000 process in Montenegro lies in officially designating the sites as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). To achieve this, it was imperative to have the IBAs officially recognized and endorsed by Birdlife International, ultimately responsible for the coordination of the IBA programme. Given the significant influence of development which in many cases is unplanned, and strategic planning with high pressure on Montenegro's natural resources, any argument that supports the preservation of certain sites or promotes sustainable use is highly welcomed. IBAs play a vital role in exerting pressure and advocating for conservation, especially while Montenegro is in a negotiation phase, as they have the potential to gain official and legal status as SPAs, resulting in even greater consideration and obligations.

References

Rubinić, B., Sackl, P. & Gramatikov, M. (2019): Conserving of wild birds in Montenegro. The first inventory of potential Special Protection Areas in Montenegro. AAM Consulting. Budapest xiii +328 pp.

