



ELA 350A Management and Design of Forest Protected Areas

Obligatory subject – in 7th /winter/ semester for Bulgarian students

ECTS credits – **4.5** Ability to teach a foreign language – **English**

Syllabus in brief

I. Lectures:

- 1. Protected areas** – definition and functions. **World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA).**
- 2. IUCN Management Categories of PA** – Strict Nature Reserve; Wilderness Area; National Park; Natural Monument; Habitat/Species Management Area; Protected Landscape/Seascape; Managed Resource Protected Area. **Guidelines for Protected Areas Management Categories** – background, basic concepts and applying the categories.
- 3. Forest Protected Areas in Europe** – distribution and conservation status of European forests.
- 4. Management Plans of PA** – requirements and management plan process (major steps). **Design of PA** – basic concepts.
- 5. Country specific PA categories and network** – **Bulgaria, Portugal, other EU countries** – management categories, network structure and organization.
- 6. International Nature Protection Conventions and Programs** – Bern Convention, Ramsar Convention, CITES, World Heritage Convention, MAB Program.
- 7. The European Ecological Network** – concept, structure, function.
- 8. The European Ecological Network and protection of forest habitats** – forest habitats in protected areas in Bulgaria, Portugal, other EU countries.

II. Exercises:

- 1. Forest PA in Bulgaria and Portugal** – management categories and examples.
- 2. Management Plans of Forest PA** – examples and discussion.
- 3. Ecological Network** in Bulgaria and Portugal and protection of specific forest habitats-discussion.

Presentation by the students on “**Protected areas in Bulgaria and Portugal – comparison between particular categories and examples**”.

III. Practical training:

Routing transition in Vitosha Nature Park – examples and discussion.

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