



## **FOR 254 Management on Non-timber Forest Resources in Protected Areas**

Obligatory subject – in 5<sup>th</sup> /winter/ semester for Bulgarian students

ECTS credits – 2 Ability to teach a foreign language – **English**

### **Syllabus in brief**

**Summary:** The classes include studying the products harvested traditionally in the protected areas, including the zones of NATURA 2000, as well as the ecosystem and recreational services. The aim of the course is to acquaint the students with the local and European legislation documents and the rules for the activities related to the long-term and sustainable use of the products and services.

#### ***1. Topics of the lectures (seminars):***

1. Terminology, definitions, classification of the products and services in the protected areas and NATURA 2000 zones.
  - types of products;
  - types of services.
2. National and local legislation. Relationships among the different legislation documents: Medicinal Plants Act, Forest Act, Water Act, Act for tourism, Act for hunting and game protection, on one hand, and Protected territories Act and Biodiversity Act, on the other.
3. International legislation. Limitation and procedures related to: CITES convention, Aarhus Convention, Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, Bonn Convention, Bern Convention and Convention for Biodiversity.
4. Rules for long-term sustainable use of the products and services. Sub-legislative regulation and requirements for collecting of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) and forest fruits.
5. Regimes and quotes of using the non-timber plant resources. Measures for maintaining, restoration and evaluation. Maintaining of favourable conservation status of the resources.
6. Species MAPs having national and international conservation status.
7. Regulation services. Planning and producing of specialized products in the protected territories and NATURA 2000 zones.
8. Cultural services. Commercialization of the recreational services in the forest ecosystems. Tourism and visits. Types of specialized tourism.
9. Organization and management of the specialized tourism. Tourist products in the protected territories and NATURA 2000 zones.
10. Management of pasture activities in the protected territories and NATURA 2000 zones. Suitable local breeds of livestock. Measures for maintaining of habitats. Control authorities.

11. Other ecosystem services in the protected territories and NATURA 2000 zones. Main threats to the ecosystems and ecosystem services.
12. Certifying of the non-timber products in the protected territories and NATURA 2000 zones. Certification systems.
13. Categories and criteria for sustainability related to certification. International standards.
14. Management plans – basic principles of planning and management of non-timber products and services in the protected territories and NATURA 2000 zones.

## ***II. Practical training:***

Routing transition in Vitosha Nature Park – examples and discussion.

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