Bulgarian vegetation and recent changes

Iva Apostolova
Institute of biodiversity and ecosystem research
Overgrazing started in the beginning of the past century.
During 60ties extensive livestock breeding has been replaced by intensive
Moderate grazing was established in recent years

Case study - Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park

1971

Festuca rubra – Agrostis capillaris type

2012

- **Festuca rubra – Agrostis capillaris type**
- Achnatherum calamagrostis type
- Agrostis capillaris type
- Brachypodium pinnatum type
- Lerchenfeldia flexuosa type
- Shrub
Fertile lowland meadows were turned into arable fields
Forestry
Examples of nature conservation activities
The aim of the project is to establish a network of Plant Micro-reserves (PMR) for protection of plant species of high conservation value on the territory of Bulgaria. The selected species are highly endangered having single and strongly fragmented populations situated outside existing protected areas.

PMR are small areas (up to 20 ha), characterized by high levels of plant diversity, endemism, or concentration of rare species. PMR are permanent, declared by law protected areas that correspond to Protected Sites according to Bulgarian legislation.

The application of PMR concept in Bulgaria will ensure the establishment of a large number of small protected sites for protection of the unique Bulgarian flora in relatively short time.
Further requirements

- increasing people's knowledge
- education in the field of conservation in schools
- strengthening the capacity of institutions
- links between scientists and politicians
- organic farming
- farmers education
- long time monitoring