



Bulgarian
Biodiversity
Foundation



BBF ANNUAL REPORT

2021

BULGARIAN BIODIVERSITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

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CONTEXT

This year too I hoped that I wouldn't have to begin this report with the ancient Chinese curse, 'may you live in interesting times' but, alas, 2021 kept us busy in many respects. For me, it was the year of rage, pandemic and change.

2021 brought along a great societal tension too, with three parliamentary elections, presidential elections, almost 7 months of caretaker governments and a radical shift in the balance of power in the country. All that against the background of the continuing global COVID pandemic that put Bulgaria on the top with regards to mortality rate in the country, and of a deteriorating climate crisis – record droughts in the US, floods in Belgium and Germany, melting of the ice caps.

For the first time in my life I felt uncertainty as to whether I am able to perceive fully the global context and whether what I see is what is really happening.

Rumyana Ivanova, Executive Director

THE YEAR FOR BBF

Against this background 2021 was quite an active year for BBF. Our team came to realize clearly that the outside world is so unpredictable and so little depends on our decisions that it's better to put effort into organizing our own environment well, and to hold our team together and motivate ourselves so that we can fulfill our mission and continue to be as effective and as beneficial to society as possible.

With the financial support of the Sigrid Rausing Trust we started an in-depth process of improving our organizational culture and updating the conservation and communication strategies of the Foundation. We invested efforts in enhancing our international memberships so that we are well-informed and keep our focus on the topics that concern Bulgaria (e.g. marine conservation as an area in which few organizations in Bulgaria work). We developed a brand book of BBF, and we updated our website and our visual identity in accordance to that. We developed our business and donation strategies in such a way that they can generate means for the funding of activities such as legal procedures, preparation of ecological assessments and statements, etc.

We made a thorough analysis of our role in the Bulgarian *For the Nature* Coalition and we planned actions to help us strengthen the coalition and make it more recognizable by the general public, and we provided funding for key topics for the public interest, such as the preservation of Rila Lakes and Karadere Beach areas.

FIELDS OF ACTIVITY OF BBF

In its mission to bring together people with individual views on nature conservation in Bulgaria, to preserve natural resources and to change the attitude towards protected territories, BBF works in several main fields of activity: protected territories and NATURA 2000; endangered species; biosphere parks; legislation and Green Belt; education and communication activities; public campaigns and coalitions.

Our work consists of designing and realizing projects and campaigns that are in accordance with the priorities of the respective field of activity of BBF.

PROTECTED TERRITORIES AND NATURA 2000

The Foundation takes an active part in the decision-making process and the protection of important territories both on institutional, as well as local level. In 2021 our efforts were focused

primarily on newly emerged threats for habitats in relation to the construction of photovoltaic solar parks in Natura 2000 areas protected under the Habitat Directive; we also continued our work on cases of construction actions in protected territories and Natura 2000 areas (Alepu, Sinemorets, Kavatsi, Atanassovsko Lake), issues with dune regulation on the Bulgarian sea coast and illegal actions in protected territories and Natura 2000: the planting of paulownia trees in Silistar PA and the fires in Dragoman Marsh, poaching and construction in Central Balkan National Park, etc.

We've established channels of active communication with citizen's groups (groups for Sinemorets, Karadere, Bedechka, Strandzha) and provide them with expertise and logistical support for their efforts in nature conservation and protection. We support the propagation of citizen science and the conservation of protected plant species through our active involvement in the management of the Plants in Bulgaria Facebook group. BBF joined the European campaign of LIFE NaturallyEST and the University of Tartu, Estonia, for research on cowslip in the context of climate change and habitat change; we are the national coordinator of the campaign for Bulgaria.

Participation of our representatives in the National Council on Biological Diversity was key for the approval of territorial increases in PAs Pashadere, Karadere and Koral, thus enhancing their conservation. We see this as a turning point in the attitude of the state government towards Natura 2000 and the participation of NGOs in the process of developing and managing territories within the network. We participate in working groups on Natura 2000 of the Bulgarian For the Nature Coalition.

BBF took an active part in the consultation phase of the preparation of Natura 2000 and protected territories policies of the new government. Our suggestions were integrated in the government's programme for the environment.

The revived dialogue with the new actors in the Ministry of Environment and Water led to the discussion of and actions for the completion of the Management Plan for Strandzha Nature Park, a process where BBF plays an active role. Work started on the declaration of new protected territories that were proposed by BBF a long time ago but were neglected and suspended by Bulgaria's previous governments.

Atanasovsko Lake: Lagoon of Life

In 2021 work started on the first of the three large dykes that are to be restored by 2024. So far 230 m have been constructed, with an area of 0.27 ha. The dykes are of huge importance both for the regulation of the water circulation in Atanasovsko Lake, as well as for providing safe nesting and resting grounds for the target birds species.

Another important activity was the restoration of the small dykes and the clean-up of interior salt-water canals in order to decrease the effect of fragmentation in Atanasovsko Lake resulting from the salt production infrastructure; 3 km of small dykes were restored, together with 2.5 km of inner canals. Thus Habitat 1350 was restored on an area of 1.21 ha – favourable nesting and resting grounds for key species such as Kentish plover, avocet and black-winged stilt.

The main northern canal-lock (gateway) was entirely refurbished and renovated; it is of key importance for the ecological processes in the coastal lagoon, playing the role of a ‘heart valve’ in the circulation system of Atanasovsko Lake.

The restoration of ditch grass (*Ruppia maritima*) is a pioneer activity for Bulgaria with regards to using sea grasses as an instrument for improving conditions in coastal habitats. Ditch grass is the only halophyte on the territory of Atanasovsko Lake and it plays an important role for the improvement of water quality, and it participates in the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles and the capture of carbon from the atmosphere. Furthermore, ditch grass colonies are the preferred habitat for many species of marine organisms – crustaceans, mollusks, fish, and the preferred food for many herbivore birds – ducks, geese, swans, etc.

The first complex methodology for Bulgaria for the restoration of ditch grass in coastal habitats was developed, and three transplantations were carried out in one of the basins of the southern lake with the participation of eight volunteers. As a result, a colony of 90 sq. m was established; the colony survived through the winter.

A concept for the realization of a product series *Inspired by the Lake* was developed and possibilities for the creation of new products were investigated: glasswort and ‘green salt’, reed straws, etc. Meetings with representatives of green businesses (*Harmonica, Bagri*) were held to discuss future partnerships; we are grateful to Marcia Vaz Pinto of *Salina Green* for sharing her experience in salt-pan restoration in Portugal through bio agriculture and promotion of products of the lakes. The book *Flight in the Salt*, an artistic project of artist Bilyana Desheva is one of our new products inspired by the lake.

Conservation of Pomorie Lagoon

Our work for Natura 2000 PA *Pomoriisko Ezero* (Pomorie Lake) continues with our partners in LIFE project *Life for Pomorie Lagoon*, realized in cooperation with Green Balkans, M-Pomoriiski Solnitsi and the international organization Tour de Valat.

We improve the ecological conditions in the lagoon by preventing freshwater inflow from road construction activities, thus limiting the damage for the ecosystem of the lake that result from a decreased salinity and pollution.

The monitoring and assessment of conditions in the lake, as well as the collected data cause concern for the lake's future; therefore we carry out a number of communication activities aimed at the preservation of the lake. In November we launched a Consultation Council on topics concerning Pomorie Lake in order to bring together all stake holders for a joint discussion about the lake's future.

We monitor the status of damselflies as an indicator for water quality with the help of some of the best experts from Tour de Valat. Our main focus is the dark spreadwing (*Lestes macrostigma*) which is highly sensitive to habitat pollution. In order to emphasize the value of this species we plan to organize the creation of a damselfly sculpture which will be installed on a popular spot in the town of Pomorie.

Habitat preservation and ecological corridors for the migration of large carnivores and other animal species (Rila-Verila-Kraishte)

BBF is a partner in the SaveGREEN project together with WWF CEE (leading partner), ZARAND Association (Romania), the Austrian Environment Agency, and the Black Sea NGO Network (Varna, Bulgaria).

The main activities we participated in in 2021 were related with: 1) the development of a mobile application for data collection and connection with a centralized data base for the monitoring of the structural and functional ecological connectivity in the model areas. As a pilot area for Bulgaria we selected the ecological corridor Rila-Verila-Kraishte; and 2) the development of a mobile application for the collection of data on mortality of wildlife along the road infrastructure. BBF also took part in the development of the programme for capacity building by supporting the work of EPC (Romania).

BBF prepared the draft of an Inter-sectoral Operative Plan (ISOP) for the improvement of the ecological connectivity in the pilot area Rila-Verila-Kraishte based upon existing and current information. In addition to threats/pressure, objectives, fields of interest and main stakeholders, the plan addresses particular problems, measures and actions; the need of monitoring in every pilot area is highlighted. As part of the demonstrational implementation of the plan we prepared a Monitoring Plan for the pilot area; its implementation is already under way. We plan to carry out monitoring of large and medium-sized mammals and certain species of reptiles in order to establish the efficiency of the defragmentation installations on LOT1 of Struma Highway.

On the policy-making level BBF together with WWF Bulgaria and other members of the *For the Nature* Coalition took part in consultations with the Ministry of Environment and Water on topics related to the management of the Natura 2000 network and biodiversity conservation, including defragmentation and restoration of ecological networks within the framework of the National Plan for Restoration and Sustainability, OPE and the National Priority Actions Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 (2021–2027). As a result the Ministry of Environment and Water proposed a special project for the restoration of natural habitats within the National Plan for Restoration and Sustainability. Work in this direction continues with the newly elected government.

As part of SaveGREEN a communication strategy is also being implemented; there, BBF participates as the organizer of stakeholder meetings, with the preparation of information materials, interviews and media and social media publications. A leaflet and a brochure with useful information for the pilot area Rila-Verila-Kraishte was created, together with articles on the benefits of green infrastructure for nature.

EUROPEAN GREEN BELT

BBF maintains its active role in the work of European Green Belt Association, particularly as a member of the Association Board. As a result of the active efforts of the Association and the support from its members from Germany and Romania that are also members of the European Parliament funding of €1 500 000 was provided for a 4-year period by the European Parliament/the European Commission through a special project, BESTBelt – More Power for the European Green Belt <https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/bestbelt/>. The focus of the new

pilot project is the connection and conservation of unique landscapes across Europe through empowerment of local stakeholders. BESTBelt provides not only funding for projects but also training and management assistance. BESTBelt addresses the younger generation of European conservationists by encouraging information exchange and networking. A main instrument for achieving the objectives of the project is the programme for small projects up to €40 000 along the entirety of the Green Belt. BBF participates in the preparation of the assessment component and the demonstration of its potential for providing employment in the areas of the Green Belt, and it is a part of the Steering Committee of the project.

CAMPAIGNS AND COALITIONS

Our work in support of For the Nature Coalition is aimed at strengthening the community, as well as supporting the general public which needs advocates of natural resources and support for finding solutions of particular cases. The actions for the preservation of Karadere, Koral and Irakli through their inclusion in Natura 2000 protected areas by the caretaker government is emblematic for 2021. The goal: to provide full protection of coastal habitats from urbanization, construction and fragmentation. Kiril Petkov, Minister of Economics in the caretaker government at the time, emphasized that 'this is a huge victory not only for ecology but for the economy too'. In 2021 BBF started a process of reinforcing For the Nature Coalition through a facilitated strategic planning; the organization won a project for proactive communication activities on the role of citizen organizations and the campaigns of the Coalition.

Nature doesn't have a voice but it has us

The objective of the project is to show the face of nature conservation in Bulgaria – a challenge taken up by a few dedicated conservationists. Who are they, what are the difficulties they experienced and the successes they are proud of? What do they aim to achieve, and why does nature conservation (and the preservation of all the riches of nature) need strong civil support? The project also aims to support local communities to persevere in their fight for nature – in the case of emerging local conservation issues.

In 2021 we developed a communication plan for the visualization and publicity of the project. In it we integrated a time schedule for all communication and information activities of the project, a description of the target groups, its messages and the respective information channels, measures for information and publicity, and a plan for monitoring the project communication success rate. The plan is aimed entirely at the enhancement of the communication channels of *For the Nature* Coalition.

In November we organized an online meeting of the Coalition and we made a situational analysis with the help of external facilitators; we initiated the so called 'public mapping', necessary for situation assessment, including for the planning of specific actions aimed at individual negatively or positively disposed stakeholders. The map will be completed during our live meeting in 2022. We introduced the new communication officer of the project and we brainstormed for ideas for future video materials and information events that are to be organized within the project. Besides discussing important strategic topics, the participants were divided into several groups to cooperate until the time comes for the live meeting:

- expanding the range of support of the Coalition and its capacity (volunteers, interns, groups, new members)
- raising the level of trust in the Coalition, image
- efficient inner communication
- participation in policy making
- consolidation of resources and coordination between the member organizations in accordance with the goals of the Coalition

Citizen initiative for efficient policy for biodiversity conservation

The project was initiated by three member organizations of *For the Nature* Coalition with the aim to analyze omissions in strategic documentation that regulates biodiversity conservation in Bulgaria within the framework of the European Union, and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the respective institutions and the European Union.

An expert team formed by BBF, Balkani Wildlife Society and Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation analyzed the proposed National Priority Activities Framework for Natura 2000 (2021–2027), the existing reports from 2013 and 2019 on the status of species and habitats under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the Bird Directive, a

document on the objectives of Natura 2000, as well as existing decrees regarding Natura 2000 protected areas. Due to the elections procedure the discussion of the conclusions and recommendations was postponed until after a regular government was formed. (The discussion took place in 2022.) Some of the conclusions were used during discussions in expert committees in 2021, and some of the suggestions for the project for NPAF 2021–2027 were included in the final document.

Conclusions from the main assessment of the monitoring and the reports on the status of Natura 2000 in Bulgaria are that there is no connection between the reports of monitoring experts for the individual species and habitats and the final report for the European Commission; in particular this applies to the reports from 2013, whereas the reports from 2019 to a great extent are based upon old data and modelling, without comprehensive current monitoring. The specific recommendations for the improvement of the species and natural habitats monitoring procedure will be elaborated and submitted in 2022.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Working with young people is very important for BBF, especially in the context of climate change and education. Providing opportunities for funding for thesis research for graduate and postgraduate students is a key activity of BBF that we try to maintain for more than 20 years, as it is our belief that in this way we can involve young people in valuable scientific projects with modern practical application.

Educational camps and field trips for school and university students – and company employees too, – are a way to create a network and to motivate new people. Our new website and the diverse contents of our social media pages are our instrument to reach out to new, broader audience and send important messages for species, habitats, threats and achievements.

Game on! Do not let climate change end the game

The project aims to inform young people and society as a whole about climate change and raise their awareness of the issue; BBF strives to find a point of intersection between preserved

biodiversity, climate and the benefits that natural resources and stable ecosystems bring to mankind. As many Bulgarians are not familiar with these topics, we demonstrate some impacts of climate change in Bulgarian context, focusing on the most vulnerable local habitats and giving specific examples of climate change as seen from the point of view of social justice.

In 2021 we successfully addressed 560 000 people through activities and communication initiatives within the project and we involved directly 80 young people aged 18 to 35 from across the country. 56 journalists picked up the messages of the project and helped share them with an even wider audience through 93 publications.

Here are some of the most important achievements from the past year:

Support for graduation theses in the field of climate change. We financed the scientific research of 6 graduate and postgraduate students; their theses focus on climate change and particular animal and plant species. In order to enhance the visibility of young scientists the team of BBF put effort into introducing their work through a variety of communication materials to be propagated among a wider audience.

Expert discussion on the conservation of the Seven Rila Lakes and a nature conservation camp about the impact of climate change in high mountain areas. During a 4-day-long camp under the guidance of experts, young people from different academic backgrounds studied the impact of climate change on plant communities, relief and lake ecosystems. The Seven Rila Lakes are an emblematic location for Bulgarian nature, but also one of the most frequented and pressured touristic destinations, so the threat for their survival is becoming more and more severe.

Geocaching – ten containers with puzzles were distributed on chosen locations around Atanasovsko Lake; a map containing QR codes with their coordinates was created. The initiative aims to invite youths and adults alike to the adventure of becoming b and thus it reveals the beauty of our seaside lagoon.

Artistic climate residence in the village of Salash. Following our mission to find the points of intersection between different groups of society we brought together 16 young artists and 7

experts for a joint discussion of a wide range of topics: ethnology, art activism, local dimensions of climate change and its effect on biodiversity, water resources, agriculture and food. In addition to their work with the experts the young participants volunteered in actions for the improvement of Salash: key, symbolic sites in the village were cleared and renovated.

Through our Game On project we successfully **supported important community events** and camps by providing equipment, and funding for procuring experts and lecturers as participants. We were involved in the organization of the bird ringing camp near the village of Durankulak by supporting the activities in October and organizing lecturers for the camps at Atanasovsko and Pomorie lakes on topics about the impact of climate change on the Black Sea and on the Balkan Peninsula, and the toxic impact of organic Sulphur compounds contained in oil on living organisms.

The set of lectures and the practical field guide *Introduction to Wetland Management* that was created within the *Lagoon of Life* LIFE project was presented to students from *Paisii Hilendarski* University of Plovdiv as a part of their master's programme. In May, five lectures and a practical field seminary on monitoring and conservational actions in Atanasovsko Lake took place.

Be smart, think circular

The project was supported by the Active Citizens Fund; it is aimed at children aged 10 to 13, their parents and teachers, and its goal is to implement innovative modern educational approaches to introduce the young generation to the ever more pressing topics of environment protection, circular economy and the adaptation to and coping with climate change. Within the framework of the project in 2021 we launched a website that will provide a guide with 6 topics, entertaining online competitions and video content that presents the topics to young people in an accessible, comprehensible way.

Down to Earth

The mural *IT'S TIME* on 85 sq. m in the campus of the American University in Bulgaria in the city of Blagoevgrad is an artistic act that communicates the connection between man and nature through the prism of artists from 140 Ideas Studio and the students' Sustainability Club. In addition to the direct contact with students and citizens of Blagoevgrad, a two-minute-long

video was created to popularize the mural. 6 online seminars were organized on topics about sustainable life with lecturers from different fields. In order to raise the awareness of the students, more than 100 signs (small visualizations) were placed across the university and the campus to remind them to be aware consumers of water, energy and to recycle.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Annual Biodiversity and Climate Awards

In October, in the cozy atmosphere of *The Rooms at the Site*, we organized the much-awaited ceremony for all 46 nominees in the individual categories of our Awards, putting them in the public focus and celebrating the positive example they set by their contribution in making Bulgaria a better place (and state) to live in, with better preserved nature.

In the category *Most successful campaign for biodiversity conservation and the climate* the awarding committee recognized the initiative for the preservation of old-growth forests in Bulgaria by WWF, the Association of Parks in Bulgaria, Balkani WS, Executive Forest Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture; the initiative enhanced the protection and conservation of a high percentage of the old-growth forests within the Natura 2000 network, which are managed without any logging activities. Two school students from Kyustendil, Atanas Ivanov (16) and Stanislav Todorov (17) won over the hearts of the public with their actions for the declaration of a protected site: the canyon of Shegava River. We should not omit the active citizen campaign *Breathe Devnya* which was nominated under several different categories. The speech of Vanya Zaharieva from *Breathe Devnya* was very inspiring.

The Bulgarian National Radio was recognized by the awarding committee as the media with the most consistent focus on nature conservation topics, and the independent media Bivol got the public choice award with their investigative reports. Awards were also given to politician Ivan Velov for his involvement in key court cases, more specifically for winning the case against Asarel Medet, and Kiril Petkov for the compelling economical reasoning he presented in favour of the preservation of Koral and the other few remaining wild beaches in Bulgaria. In the

category *Responsible Business* (with regards to nature and climate) the awarding committee recognized the efforts of VMWare for reducing the carbon footprint of their company and its employees; the public choice award went to Mariya Georgieva and her company, Mariya's Sweets and Cakes that is based on the concept of zero waste.

In the category most distinguished conservationist/nature conservation activist the awarding committee awarded Emilian Stoynov from the Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna for his dedicated efforts aimed at bringing vultures back to Bulgaria. The public choice award went to Vassil Todev after a near miss from Rada Boneva.

In the category *International Expert with Contribution to the Conservation Of Bulgarian Nature* awards were received by young Jovan Andevski from North Macedonia who is actively involved in vulture conservation, and by Wolfgang Fremuth from the Frankfurt Zoological Society for his overall work for nature conservation in Bulgaria and other countries on the Balkan Peninsula.

The awarding committee this year consisted of journalist and active citizen Iva Doychinova, author and lawyer Radoslav Parushev, Krassimira Velichkova, executive director of the Bulgarian Donors' Forum, and the entrepreneur Dimitar Dimitrov who organizes Pirin Ultra Marathon.

The award ceremony was broadcast live and was seen by more than 20 000 people in pandemic environment. For our good mood we relied on Story Hunters, and the music of Konstantin Kuchev and *Taraleshta*; *Ideas Factory* helped us organize the event.

"Live" pelican in Burgas #withNature2020

On the International Day of Biological Diversity - May 22, 2021 a "living" Dalmatian pelican, created by more than 200 volunteers, appeared in the Burgas Sea Garden. This was part of the art initiative #withNature2020 (a global art project that engages people with biodiversity and its protection) along with 17 other locations in 13 countries on 6 continents. We believe that with such positive campaigns and the involvement of many people all over the world, we can change the situation for some endangered species and give a voice to the problems, but also to the solutions for their protection.

European LANDSCAPE AWARD (2020-2021)

The Salt of Life Project of the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation takes a second place in the 7th session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award. The Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. The "Salt of Life" project is implemented in one of the key hotspots of biodiversity in the Black Sea biogeographical region. The beautiful and flowery Atanasovsko Lake, as we know it now, is to a large extent the result of a symbiosis between man and nature - significantly modified for the purposes of salt production, which has made the place so rich and meaningful for European nature.

TREASURE HUNTERS: SALTY CODE

BBF was one of the approved participants in the sixth edition of the Vivacom Regional Grant and through its project in a new and innovative way, secret places with a combination of educational elements, popularizing the salty Atanasovsko Lake and attract new visitors for this natural territory.

One day in Slavyanka

The BBF has created a permanent exhibition, which tells the story of Mount Slavyanka and the history of the region and is located in the hut "Slavyanka", managed by the tourist association "Momini Dvori" from Goce Delchev. The eighth board describes the stories of Sasho, Lati, Rossi, Vlado and Roko - members of a tourist group and their guide Peter. It is part of the BIO-INNOVATE project activities.

Salt Fair

This year it happened on August 14th in "symBiotic", to popularize natural products from Atanasovsko Lake. The BBF team demonstrates how to make summer pickles only with salt and vegetables, scientific activities for the salinity of water in different basins, art workshops, etc. The salt train provided by Chernomorski solnici AD makes the guests happy, and the owner of the reserve RIEW Burgas brings a big cake for the Birthday of the lake. The celebration

gathered over 1000 people and ended with a concert of two duets - D'Family Acoustic and Desperate Daughters.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

In 2021 we developed a business plan for selling two of our most emblematic products: the *Fleur de Sel* salt and *Nature in a Box*. For the first time we hired a coordinator whose job is to manage the foundation's commercial activities. We had 15 participations in the Farmers' Markets in front of the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Palace of Culture in Sofia. We had a stand at the inauguration of the new office of America for Bulgaria Foundation, and we participated in the Summer Festival of Social Entrepreneurship. Generally our commercial activity develops in a positive direction, and the planned goals for selling *Fleur de Sel* and *Nature in a Box* were achieved.

Partnerships with businesses

More and more businesses look for ways to contribute to nature conservation, to stimulate their employees and clients to reduce their carbon footprint and to learn more about our ecosystems. This year Mondelēz International dedicated their **Purpose Day** to nature. BBF organized 4 guided tours in nature for them: together with our experts the participants looked for signs left by mammals in Vitosha Nature Park; they learned about forests and climate change in Chervenata Stena Reserve; they participated in citizen science activities in Shumensko Plato Nature Park; and they learned about the connection between salt and birds in Atanasovsko Lake Reserve and Poda Protected Area on the Via Pontica migration flyway.

DONORSHIP

As part of the update of our conservation strategy a decision was made that in the beginning of every year the team of BBF will select two priority nature conservation activities to finance

with the resources generated by the Biodiversity Fund. We elaborated criteria for the selection of the appropriate activities.

In 2021 BBF became a strategic partner of HPE in the field of the environment; together we organize volunteer events and workshops and receive donations from the company's employees through the Benevity platform.

Donate for the Dalmatian pelican: the lord of the lakes!

The project aims to launch a special donation campaign using the Dalmatian pelican, a species that is emblematic for the city of Burgas; thus the campaign will draw the attention of local people, involving young people and using innovative, creative instruments to support our cause and develop new channels for donorship in the local community. The long-term goal is to establish a special Atanasovsko Lake Fund to provide funding for emergency conservation activities related to the coastal lagoon and its inhabitants, as well as activities to popularize the benefits and the opportunities for use of the diverse resources on its territory.

The support for BBF was provided by the Developing Philanthropy at the Local Level Program by AGORA Platform and America for Bulgaria Foundation.