

2013

Mapping of the natural
resources and cultural heritage
in the Debar region



Content

Introduction.....	- 3 -
Mapping of the natural resources	0
Fauna	3
Flora	4
Mapping of the cultural heritage	10
Historic localities.....	11
Architecture	14
Religious facilities.....	16
Tourism premises.....	17
Events	18

Introduction

Mapping of the natural resources and cultural heritage in the wider region of Debar is a study which is implemented in the frame of the project "Sustainable rural development in the mountains range Deshat: Local action group Deshat" (a project that is implemented under the IPA program, 2nd component, cross-border cooperation Macedonia - Albania 2007 - 2013, 3 call). The study aims to make an assessment of the potential of natural and cultural resources within the territory of this massif, the mountain range Deshat.

This document is composed of two parts: environmental resources (including the biodiversity: flora and fauna) and touristic and cultural and historic resources.

The mountain range Deshat spreads on the territory of the two municipalities Debar and Mavrovo – Rostushe. In the frame of the administrative territories of these 2 municipalities, this are the settlements which belong in here: the town of Debar and villages Banishte, Bomovo, Gary, Gorno Kosovrasti, Dolno Kosovrasti, Konjari, Krivci, Mogorce, Osoj, Otisani, Rajcica, Selokukji, Spas, Tatar Elevci, Trnanikj, Hame and Dzepiste; and the villages from the municipality of Mavrovo - Rostuse: Adzhievci, Belichica, Bibaj, Bitushe, Bogdevo, Boletin, Velebrdo, Volkovija, Vidushe, Vrben, Vrbjani, Galichnik, Grekaj, Duf, Zirovnica, Zhuzhel, Janche, Akchilnica, Krakornica, Leunovo, Lazaropole, Mavrovi Anovi, Mavrovo, Nivishte, Nikiforovo, Nistrovo, Nichpur, Novo Selo, Orkjushe, Prisojnica, Rosoki, Rostusa, Ribnica, Selce, Sence, Skudrinje, Sretkovo, Sushica, Tanushe, Trebiste, Tresonche and Cerovo . This means that the local action group (LAG) Deshat will be established by representatives of these settlements. The total population of these 2 municipalities is 26 594 (Debar has 17,974 inhabitants and Mavrovo - Rostuse has 8,618 inhabitants) and an area of about 1000 km ².

The collection of this information is intended to assist in the preparation of planning documents necessary for the Deshat LAG. Through the incorporating of the LEADER approach, as a component of current IPARD program, better and faster development will be enabled for the rural areas in the country, mostly through LAGs, that need to be established throughout the country.

Mapping of the natural resources

The mountain range Deshat is placed on the Macedonian – Albanian border and is part of the range Shar – Korab – Deshat – Krchin – Stogovo – Karaorman. The highest peak of this range is Velivar (Veli Vrv) with 2,373 meters. Other high peaks are Deli Senica and Suva Bara. On this mountain range, several smaller glacial lakes are located, also. Most popular of them is the Lokuv Lake, located on the northeast part of the mountain, at 1560 m a s l and it is considered to be the lowest glacial lake in Macedonia. On the other hand, on the east side of the mountain there is the Radika River Valley, which divides Deshat Mountain from Bistra and Stogovo. It is very important to mention that bigger part of this mountain belongs to the National Park Mavrovo.

Velivar is a mountain peak in Macedonia, located on Mount Deshat, and has an altitude of 2,373 meters. At the top of Velivar, passes the border line between Macedonia and Albania, for which there is a semi-destroyed border stone - pyramid. The peak Velivar is high and rocky reef covered with lush and tall grass, which rises above the surrounding valleys and forests of Deshat in Radika Valley, on the Macedonian side and his base in the valley of the Crn Drim River Valley, on the Albanian side. The easiest way to come to the peak of Velivar is by walking about 3-4 hours from the villages of Bitushe and Trebiste.

Lokuv is one of the five glacial lakes on the Deshat Mountain. That is the lowest glacial lake in Macedonia, positioned on 1565 meters above sea level. The closest settlement to the lake is village Rostuse. In terms of location and hydrographical features, Lokuv Lake is situated in dense deciduous beech forest, which surrounds the lake, at the bottom of the mountain Deshat. In fact, the lake is located at the bottom of a cavity in lower parts of the mountain directly above the villages and Bitushe and Trebiste. Features of soil and terrain of the lake indicate that it is unlikely from glacial origin, but it is rather of natural tectonic origin. The glacial origins are characteristic for the numerous closer and smaller lakes of the Deshat's ridge, above Lokuv. The name Lokuv comes from the eponymous plant that grows in abundance around the lake, and also less likely it can be assumed that it originates from the word lokva (meaning pool). Tourism potential of the micro - region is quite interesting. Given the already favourable location, it is a real tourist attraction. Nearby the lake, there are several benches for resting, sheepfold, a natural cold tap water for drinking and so on. The site can be reached by walking (the length is 8 kilometres) through the mountains following the marked hiking trails. There are conditions for reaching the lake from two locations, one from the village of Bitushe, near the former border guardhouse, and through the village of Trebiste. In the villages, there are possibilities to rent horses and the trail is intermediate and almost through its entire course is covered with beautiful forests and cold shades. The route abounds with viewpoints (belvederes) providing you with beautifully sightseeing of Radika River Canyon, St. John the Baptist monastery and other landscapes. In terms of wildlife, in this lake are surviving several interesting forms of life of which the best known is "Triton", an amphibian that looks like fish and frog. Near the lake there is a sheepfold located, and in here everyone can try fresh cheese known as Trebishte cheese, but also any other dairy products from this region. The water in the lake during the summer is very hot and those tourists who visit the site have the opportunity to enjoy the water of a rare mountain beach. Around the lake there are ideal spots for picnics, camping and mountain vacation. Near the lake, at about 30 to 40 minutes' walk, visitors can see "mountain eyes" (ponds with clean clear water situated on the slopes of the mountain). Also, on these sites you can gather a lot of aromatic and other plants that can be used for the preparation of natural remedies, best known of all, as a plant that has a natural taste and is found in large quantities, is the blueberry.

Mavrovo Lake is a real jewel in the national park and in the municipality. Although artificial, this lake still captivated by its beauty especially when seen from the ski slopes of Mount Bistra. Besides fishing activities, the lake offers opportunities for camping, walks, etc. Around the lake there is a well held paved road that can be used to tour the entire Mavrovo part of the National Park, sightseeing the beautiful ski slopes, hotels, villas and visit the many tourism facilities. One of the most impressive sights offered by the lake is submerged old church in Mavrovo which at certain times of the year, when the water of the lake has achieved the highest level, you can only see part of the roof and half of bell tower. This church building was submerged during the creation of the lake.

Radika River is right, and also the largest tributary of the Black Drin River and belongs to the Adriatic basin. Radika surges out of 2,200 meters above sea level under Vraca, and from source to estuary in Debar Lake is 67 km long. During its flow, Radika has four tributaries: Ribnica, Mavrovo River, Zhirovnichka River and Little River. Radika has clean, clear and cool water and its dark green color is caused by calcium carbonate in the water. Radika River Valley is one of the most attractive and picturesque canyon valleys. This canyon is millions of years old and breaks through between Bistra and Stogovo (mountains) on the east and Korab and Deshat (mountains) at the west. Radika River is the only river bifurcation in Macedonia, which provides water to two water flows, Adriatic and Aegean basin. Through the water channels, Radika waters are taken into Mavrovo Lake and they are filling in the lake with water, and from there, by underground tunnels the water is taken to its flow-in in Vardar River.

Duf waterfall is located in the Rostusha Mountain, 20 minutes' walk from the village center of Rostuse at an altitude of about 1500 meters. Village Rostushe and Duf waterfall are connected with a trail that facilitates the access to the visitors to this natural rarity. Sharkova Dupka (hole), Lake Lokuv, Duf waterfall and several other natural rarities are becoming more and more accessible to the tourists, lately. There are marked routes, regulated approaches and resting places, almost everyone can walk without much effort. This is what will expect all of you, if you want to enjoy the natural beauties and rarities in the National Park "Mavrovo". The last example that the park has launched, got all the sympathies from those who have seen this waterfall. It was the recently promoted renewed path from village Rostushe to Duf waterfall. This mile-long trail is marked with signposts, wooden bridges passes over the water flows, and also there is a makeshift classroom with desks that serves as a classroom for teaching in nature. The trail passes through a rocky canyon, somewhere deep more than 50 meters. In the summer, the canyon is overgrown with vegetation and looks like rainforest. Such beautiful waterfall is a creation of nature, created by the waters of Big River and Little River, flowing-in at a place which is two kilometers before the fall. A large quantity of water are flowing down through a deep cut in the rock, for about 25 meters and a moist curtain of tiny droplets is created, which is a real refreshment after the walk. Local people are saying this place has a metro-climate and summer temperatures do not go below the limit of 18 degrees Celsius. In the rocks, all along the canyon, there are around 20 smaller and bigger caves. Most of them are not accessible without special equipment and has not been explored yet. In winter time, the waterfall freezes and creates interesting phenomenon. Due to the condensation of moisture, it appears that water droplets are created and this phenomenon is making an impression like raining.

Cave Sharkova Dupka is located in the Municipality of Mavrovo - Rostuse in Mavrovo National Park, close to the winter tourism center, particularly in the village of Mavrovo. This pearl cave is located near the last houses of the village. To the entrance there is 10 minutes walking trail and stairs. Sharkova Dupka Cave, which is open for tourists, is protected by an iron door with bars, adorned with semi-circular metal stairs and fully lightened with spotlights. The cave is located at a depth of around 20 meters from the entrance; it is wide some 18 meters and 25 meters long. In the lower part there is an opening that leads to two cave rooms but because of lack of funds needed for adaptation, they are still inaccessible for

tourists. The cave was discovered more than three decades by locals, who were afraid to get down. According to one of the stories associated with the invention of the cave, one of the locals, named Sharko, who lived near the cave, first picked up courage to do so. He cut some trees; put them down in the hole and with ropes and with a little help from his neighbors he managed to get inside the cave. And that's how the cave got its name Sharkova Dupka. Besides this one, there are also other interesting stories about the cave. In front of the door, there is a panel with map of the cave, cave ornaments and rich fauna present in the cave. Visitors are entering the cave with semi-circular iron stairs that lead into the first pit or hall, about 20 meters below ground. Down there, the temperature is below 12 degrees Celsius. This underground beauty is decorated with stalactites, stalagmites covered with corals, drapes and other cave jewelry, which gives a picture of intact beauty. Because of the soil, rich in iron, most of the decorations have distinctive reddish - brown color. Sharkova Dupka has diverse wildlife: bats, spiders, lizards and various species of insects. The cave is open for organized groups of visitors and is an ideal location for organizing educational excursions.

Crystal Cave, Debar. Somewhere, on the half way between the Kosovrasti Spa and Debar, there is a mine owned by "Knauf" company, and deep down in its belly hides a rare breathtaking place. That's the Crystal Cave, as it is called by the employees, and the few other people who did know of its existence. In this cave you can find and see the unique crystal – selenite, apart from this place, it can only be found in Mexico. The entrance in the cave is a few meters above the level of Lake Debar. In just a few meters, after you enter inside, you can feel the cold air and the smell of sulfur that comes from several springs of the thermal water in the area. Huge crystal pillars and arches are breaching the light of the several lamps and batteries that we have in the hands. It took thousands of years to create such structures, but also the special conditions inside the cave were important. The temperature in the cave is always seventeen degrees. The crystals of selenite has 99% purity and is unique primarily because of the conditions, the pressure of the ground, chemical composition and the thermal water. So far, the miners had reached to about 420 meters in the horizontal direction.

Kulap's cave is located near the village of Banjishte, near Debar, but so far hasn't being done any researches and it is not used in the tourism purposes.

Mavrovo National Park is a very important institution, as for the region and for the entire country. This institutional infrastructure enables systematic exploration of the territory of the park and taking appropriate action to protect and promote it. NP Mavrovo covers an area of 73,088 hectares and is the largest of the three national parks in Macedonia. As a national park was declared in 1949 and its geographical position is 41 ° 40'N and 20 ° 46'E. The park includes the mountains Korab, Deshat, southwestern parts of Shar Mountain, most of the Bistra Mountain and northern parts of Krcin. The central part of the national park also includes the valley and the river basin and Radika. In the frame of the National Park Mavrovo, also is included the Mavrovo artificial lake.

The park brings together a number of interesting morphological forms: river valleys, gorges, waterfalls, karst fields, hollows, depressions, caves, cirques, glacial lakes, various types of denudation forms etc. The vegetation of the park is mostly represented by the community of mountain beech forest. In the boundaries of the Mavrovo National Park there are more than 52 mountain peaks with an altitude over 2000 meters, out of which, the most famous are Medenica peak of Mount Bistra, Velivar, Sandaktash etc. Especially important for the National Park Mavrovo is Golem Korab (2,764 meters), a peak which is also the highest peak in Macedonia and thus the highest point of the park. The lowest point of the Mavrovo National Park is at 600 meters and it is located on the spot where the Little River flows into the river Radika.

As a result of the great relief differentiation, Mavrovo National Park has outstanding floral richness, which consists of over 1000 plant species, 38 of them are tree species, 35 shrubs and about 60 of them are endemic, relict and rare species. NP Mavrovo is a classic environment for 7 plant species, a unique environment for 12 rare plant species, and in the park there can be found around 33 plant species that are rare in other parts of Makedonija. NP Mavrovo is a unique location in the country for 12 rare plant species, and in its limits, still can be found some 33 other plant species that are rare in other parts of the country. The fauna of the NP Mavrovo is rather diverse. It consists of 140 bird species, out of which the most significant are: the gray falcon, imperial eagle, Surrey (golden) eagle, forest hawk, the great owl, pallid harrier, steppe harrier, and 11 species of amphibians, 12 species of reptiles and 38 mammals. The most important mammals are: bear, lynx, chamois and wild cat

Fauna

As a result of the existing data on the flora of the park (with special focus on the mountains Deshat) and previously executed research, it is safe to say that the total number of species of vascular flora of the territory of the park is rounded to 1.435 species.

The huge diversity of plant species present on the territory of mountains Deshat represents 45 % of the total number of species of vascular flora recorded in the country.

From the total number of 1.473 registered species and subspecies, only 404 species and subspecies are included in the category of medicinal / aromatic plants. Despite the high diversity of species, second remarkable feature of the flora of the park is the high degree of endemism (13 species), and the presence of rare plant species (29 species), that from the whole territory of the Republic of Macedonia is only registered on sites in NP Mavrovo.

List of plants with limited areal distribution included in the categories of local endemics and sub endemics that meet the mountain Deshat. Subspecies that is registered endemism type:

1. <i>Achillea korabensis</i> , Korab; Bistra; Medenica; Deshat Endemism
2. <i>Crepis macedonica</i> , Deshat Endemism
3. <i>Dianthus macedonicus</i> , Deshat; Korab: Kolib Field Endemism
4. <i>Micromeria cremnophila</i> var. <i>Glandulosa</i> , Trnica-Volkovia; Radika: Pilana-Sence Endemism
5. <i>Ranunculus carinthiacus</i> subsp. <i>Austroorientalis</i> , Deshat: above the village of Bitushe Endemism
6. <i>Ranunculus degenii</i> var. <i>degenii</i> f. <i>degenii</i> f. <i>Pilosa</i> , Kobil field Deshat: above the village of Bitushe Endemism (1,850-2,000 m)
7. <i>Draba korabensis</i> Кораб: врв; Дешат Субендемит

List of plants that can only be seen in the country on locations in the territory of the park, in the area of Deshat mountain. Subspecies, varieties and locations where the certain type is registered:

1. <i>Vicia sparsiflora</i> Mavrovo: Kichinica
2. <i>Vicia montenegrina</i> Mavrovo: Vrben-Dingo church
3. <i>Genista tinctoria</i> var. <i>tinctoria</i> Mavrovo: Mavrovo fields
4. <i>Anthriscus fumarioides</i> Upper Radika
5. <i>Linum aroanum</i> Deshat: High mountain zone

6. <i>Potentilla tabernaemontani</i> Deshat: High mountain zone
7. <i>Potentilla tabernaemontani</i> var. <i>pilosa</i> Deshat
8. <i>Alchemilla glabra</i> Deshat;
9. <i>Tragopogon orientalis</i> Mavrovo: Vrben;
10. <i>Trifolium spadiceum</i> Mavrovo: Vrben;
11. <i>Ranunculus carinthiacus</i> subsp. <i>austroorientalis</i> Deshat: above the village of Bitushe
12. <i>Potentilla crantzii</i> var. <i>baldensis</i> Deshat
13. <i>Saxifraga marginata</i> var. <i>balcanica</i> Mavrovo river;
14. <i>Saxifraga grisebachii</i> var. <i>montenegrina</i> Trnica-Pilana; Deshat

List of plants determined only on NP Mavrovo / Mountain Deshat and one more site in the country. Subspecies, variety and locations where the certain type is registered:

1. <i>Alkanna scardica</i> Deshat
2. <i>Cicerbita pancicii</i> Bistra, Deshat
3. <i>Sempervivum macedonicum</i> Deshat
4. <i>Fritillaria macedonica</i> Deshat
5. <i>Astragalus gremlii</i> Deshat
6. <i>Salix elaeagnos</i> subsp. <i>elaeagnos</i> Vrben and Zhirovnica
7. <i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i> Mavrovo fields
8. <i>Alchemilla catachnoa</i> Mavrovo
9. <i>Epilobium nutans</i> Deshat: Lokuv
10. <i>Cardamine enneaphyllos</i> Mavrovo
11. <i>Silene saxifraga</i> subsp. <i>saxifraga</i> var. <i>petraea</i> Mavrovo, Upper Radika

Medicinal plants with rare deposits. Described by Macedonian folk name, English folk name and its Latin name.

1. Great Yellow Gentian <i>Gentiana lutea</i> subsp. <i>symphyandra</i>
2. Mountain Tea <i>Sideritis scardica</i>
3. Buckbean <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
4. Common Hepatica <i>Hepatica nobilis</i>
5. Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>
6. Moschatel <i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>
7. Star Gentian <i>Gentiana cruciata</i>
8. Felwort <i>Swertia punctata</i>
9. Horse-chestnut <i>Aesculus</i>

Flora

Mammals

Based on the available data and methodology applied to the mapping of wildlife in the mountain Deshat, there are total of 50 mammal species registered. In terms of their systematic affiliation, they belong to 7 orders, 18 families and 40 genera, including: 7 bat

species, 1 hedgehog, 8 soriciomorfi, 16 rankles, 1 lagomorph, 11 carnivores' types' and others. Out of the total, three are Balkan endemics (*Apodemus epimelas*, *Dinaromys bogdanovi*, *Talpa stankovici*) and 1 non-indigenous species - fallow deer (*Dama dama*) and mouflons * (*Ovis aries*).

Animal species in NP Mavrovo (Latin name, Macedonian folk name, English name)
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> English name: Lesser horseshoe bat
<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> English name: Greater horseshoe bat
<i>Hypsugo savii</i> English name: Savi's pipistrelle
<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i> English name: Kuhl's pipistrelle
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i> English name: Serotine
<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i> English name: Schreiber' bat
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i> English name: Whiskered bat
<i>Erinaceus roumamicus</i> English name: Eastern hedgehog
<i>Sorex minutus</i> English name: Pygmy shrew
<i>Sorex araneus</i> English name: Common shrew
<i>Crocidura suaveolens</i> English name: Lesser white-toothed shrew
<i>Neomys fodiens</i> English name: Water shrew
<i>Neomys anomalus</i> English name: Miller's water shrew
<i>Talpa europaea</i> English name: Common mole
<i>Talpa caeca</i> English name: Blind mole
<i>Talpa stankovici</i> English name: Balkan mole
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> English name: Red squirrel
<i>Myodes glareolus</i> English name: Bank vole
<i>Arvicola terrestris</i> English name: Water vole
<i>Microtus subterraneus</i> English name: Common pine vole
<i>Apodemus flavicollis</i> English name: Yellow-necked mouse
<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>

English name: Wood mouse
<i>Apodemus epimelas</i> English name: Rock mouse
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> English name: Brown rat
<i>Mus musculus</i> English name: Eastern house mouse
<i>Myoxus glis</i> English name: Edible dormouse
<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> English name: Common dormouse
<i>Dryomys nitedula</i> English name: Forest dormouse
<i>Spalax leucodon</i> English name: Lesser mole rat
<i>Lepuseuropaeus</i> English name: Brown here
<i>Canis lupus</i> English name: Wolf
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i> English name: Red fox
<i>Mustela nivalis</i> English name: Weasel
<i>Mustela putorius</i> English name: Western polecat
<i>Martes martes</i> English name: Pine marten
<i>Martes foina</i> English name: Stone marten
<i>Lutralutra -</i> English name: Otter
<i>Meles meles</i> English name: Badger
<i>Ursus arctos</i> English name: Brown bear
<i>Felis silvestris</i> English name: Wildcat
<i>Lynx lynx</i> English name: Lynx
<i>Susscrofa</i> English name: Wild boar
<i>Cervuselaphus</i> English name: Red deer
<i>Capreoluscapreolus</i> English name: Roe deer
<i>Damadama</i> English name: Fallow deer
<i>Rupicaprarupicapra</i> English name: Chamois

* mouflons in the national park was introduced in 1981 and farmed in the safari park "Bunec". Because of inadequate natural conditions for its survival, since the middle of the last decade of the last century he is no longer part of the mammalian fauna in the national park, and is processed (as allochthon and disappear) to leave trace of its presence in a given period.

Amphibians and reptiles

With the unique combination of geological, climate and anthropogenic factors, in terms of biodiversity, the Balkan peninsula is one of the most important and most intriguing areas of the northern hemisphere. Balkan Peninsula, including Macedonia also, which occupies a central position, contains some of the most extreme living spaces and abundant with additional diversity which comes from the lake and cave fauna, which is insurmountable compared to other parts of Europe.

In the case of Mavrovo National Park, and thus Deshat mountain range, as a result of the unique natural values, in 1949, the forest belt around Mavrovo Fields, with an area of 11,750 hectares was declared a national park. In 1952, the park boundary was repeatedly increased, occupying an area of 73,088 hectares, while Korab and Deshat were also included in the park.

Mavrovo National Park is located in a mountainous region in the northwest part of the country. The territory of the park has an elongated form, extending in a north - south, following the border with Albania to the west. Besides the two mountains Korab and Bistra, within the current boundaries of the Park also are included parts of Shar mountain range, and almost the entire catchment area of the river Radika. The higher mountain's slopes are mostly steep, with patches and big parts without vegetation, reminiscent of the mountains of Dinaric range. This feature, as well as the presence of deep valleys, makes the area difficult to access. In terms of regional geological timetable, mountains covered in Mavrovo National Park belong to the most western part of Macedonia geotectonic zone. Regarding its morphogenesis, the origin of these mountains is associated with the radial tectonic movements that were present in the Tertiary geological period, when these mountains practically occurred.

Speaking about the topographic aspect, mountains are divided into three ranges: Korab mountain range on the west side (composed of Korab, Deshat and Krcin), Bistra mountain range (consisting of Bistra) on the south east and Shar Planina mountain range to the northeast.

Mountain Deshat occupies the central part of Korab mountain range. To the north, Deshat follows the mountain Korab, while towards the south the mountain Krcin. Mountain ridge of the mountain Deshat extends in a north – south direction, with six mountain peaks higher than 2,000 meters, of which the most remarkable are the peak of Velivar (2,375 m) and Golem Krcin (2,345 m). During the geological epoch Pleistocene (Ice Age), only the highest parts of the mountain were covered with intense glaciation, which left deep traces in the formation of relief. The remains of ice age period, in the mountain Deshat, are also present in the form of glacial relief forms, out of which, the most striking one is the Lake Lokuf.

Amphibians and reptiles of the territory mountain range Deshat are relatively well represented, mostly with northern species, while Mediterranean species are present in significantly lesser extent. The unique value of the territory of the mountain range Deshat, regarding herpetofauna is associated mostly with the northern species, since this area

represents the ultimate southern limit of distribution. Moreover, the importance is greater for the existence of certain species' formation of the native populations, at the national level.

Among all terrestrial vertebrates, amphibians and reptiles are best biological indicators to assess environmental conditions in a particular area. Amphibians and reptiles are extremely vulnerable groups; most of them are restricted to habitats that cover small areas or distribution habitats within which they have a small chance to avoid environmental change, even when it comes to short-term changes. This vulnerability is much more pronounced in other parts of Europe with a more temperate climate, or the high mountains, where these animals spend up to 6 months or more in hibernation / estivation.

Amphibians

1.	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>	Fire Salamander	
2.	<i>Triturus macedonicus</i>	Macedonian Crested Newt	
3.	<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>	Alpine Newt	
Order Anura (Tailless amphibians: Frogs)			
Family Bombinatoridae (Fire frogs)			
4.	<i>Bombina scabra</i>	Yellow-bellied Toad	
Family Bufonidae (Scabby frogs)			
5.	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	
6.	<i>Pseudepidalea viridis</i>	Green Toad	
Family Hylidae (Common tree frogs)			
7.	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	Common Tree Frog	
Ranidae (Water frogs)			
8.	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>	Agile Frog	
9.	<i>Rana graeca</i>	Balkan Stream Frog	
10.	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog	
11.	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	Marsh Frog	

Reptiles

1.	<i>Eurotestudo hermanni boettgeri</i>	Hermann's Tortoise	
Family Emydidae			
2.	<i>Emys orbicularis</i> *	European Pond Terrapin	
Order Squamata			
Suborder Sauria (Lizards)			
Family Gekkonidae			
3.	<i>Mediodactylus kotschyi</i>	Kotschy's Gecko	
Family Scincidae			
4.	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i> *	Snake-eyed Skink	
Family Anguidae			
5.	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow Worm	
Family Lacertidae (true lizards)			
6.	<i>Algyroides nigropunctatus</i>	Dalmatian Algyroides	
7.	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	Green Lizard	
8.	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	Balkan Green Lizard	
9.	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Sand Lizard	
10.	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Viviparous Lizard	
11.	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	Common Wall Lizard	

12.	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>	Balkan Wall Lizard	
13.	<i>Podarcis erhardii</i>	Erhard's Wall Lizard	
Sub order Serpentes (Snakes)			
Family			
14.	<i>Malpolon monspessulanus</i>	Montpellier Snake	
15.	<i>Dolichophis caspius</i>	Large Whip Snake	
16.	<i>Hierophis gemonensis</i>	Balkan Whip Snake	
17.	<i>Platyceps najadumdahlii</i>	Dahl's Whip Snake	
18.	<i>Zamenis longissimus</i>	Aesculapian Snake	
19.	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Grass Snake	
20.	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	Dice Snake	
21.	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>	Smooth Snake	
Family Viperidae			
22.	<i>Vipera ammodytes</i>	Nose-horned Viper	
23.	<i>Vipera berus bosniensis</i>	Adder	
24.	<i>Vipera ursinii macrops</i>	Orsini's Viper	

Invertebrates

Taking into account all the analysis made on Invertebrates in the mountain range Deshat and the valorization analysis carried out for all respective groups, particularly butterflies, it was concluded a big richness wealth of the Deshat range.

Analyses have shown that Deshat features much diversified fauna. Beautiful, rich and diverse environment, the presence of numerous plant communities and the diversity of biotopes conditioned phenomenon and the presence of a rich and diverse fauna. Within Deshat, it can be found many endemic species of organisms, especially in the world of insects.

Through the so far realized researches, there were determined a total of 973 invertebrate taxon (924 species, 35 subspecies and 14 taxon be determined at the level of genus). It shows a high degree of biodiversity. This species richness is determined by the impact of two climates (varied Mediterranean and continental), which allows the presence and mixing of Mediterranean and continental faunal elements. It requires the emergence of new species in the area. Due to the high level of quality and variety of habitats and the presence of numerous plant communities this results with the appearances of large animal diversity. The valleys of the rivers as refugee centers, alpine forest and alpine meadows biotopes are sanctuaries of many species belonging to different fauna. Therefore, these data can be used properly in organized rural tourism, where the visitors will learn about the natural resources in the mountains Deshat the opportunity to observe and invertebrates' animals in their natural setting. Visiting tourists will provide some benefits for the local population, which would be included in the organized rural tourism offer. That could provide significant tangible assets, which in return would enable faster development & progress of the local community.

Birds (ornitho-fauna)

The NP Mavrovo confirmed the presence of 129 bird species, out of which 68 species are new to the ornitho-fauna of the park. The kind of *Phoenicurus erithrogaster* is a new kind ornitho-fauna for Macedonia and the Balkan Peninsula. Out of the total number of species in the NP Mavrovo, there are 2 SPEC - 1 species (1.5 %) and 7 (5.4 %) SPEC - 2 species, which are actually species of highest protecting interest and that should be taken immediate measures for their regular monitoring and if necessary, taking measures to improve their

status in NP Mavrovo. The analysis of the categories, according to the European threat status indicates that in the NP Mavrovo are staying 32 species (24.8 %) with endangered status (V, R, D) or every 4th type belong to the status of endangered species in European scale who need to take measures for their protection through appropriate management of species and habitats. From the list of Council of Europe directives, on wild birds, in this park can be found 19 species (14.8 %), from the list No. 1, which requires strict and urgent care. Furthermore, ornitho-fauna in the park includes 45 species or 34.9 % from the second addition to the Bern Convention and from Bonn 2, some 31 species (24 %). The both groups require appropriate measures to improve their status through any appropriate measures at the national level or through cooperation with neighbouring countries in the region. In the NP Mavrovo, can be found 23 CORINE species (17.8 %), i.e. species that also require immediate protection measures. All these previously mentioned data and info, confirms the great importance of the park in terms of his ornithological composition, i.e. their large percentage of species with high protection interests at European and world level.

Mavrovo trout (*Salmo farioides*) is a freshwater fish of the genus Salmonae. In Macedonia it can be found in Radika River, Mavrovo Lake, and other smaller water courses and in all water courses that flows into the Adriatic Sea. Population of Mavrovo trout originates from the population caught in the dam up process of the Mavrovo stream and its tributaries in the creation of the Mavrovo Lake in 1953.

Mapping of the cultural heritage

Debar region is quite rich with touristic, cultural, religious and historical resources that may be used for the purpose of sustainable rural development. This conclusion applies both, to the town of Debar, and the rural areas in the same municipality, but also the municipality of Mavrovo - Rostuse.

Debar is located in the furthest western part of Macedonia near the border with Albania. It is positioned some 131 km away from Skopje; the closest cities to Debar are Struga (52 km) and Gostivar (71 km). Debar is positioned in the southeastern part of the Debar plane at the foot of the Deshat Mount (Krcin) at an altitude of 625 meters. Also Debar is surrounded by the mountains of Stogovo, on the east side and Jablanica from the south side, which separate Debar from neighboring areas of Kichevo and Drimkol in Struga. Debar is located on the coast to the artificial Debar Lake , which was created with the construction of the Shpilje dam in 1969, on the mouth (confluence) of River Radika in Black Drin directly on the southern end of town .

Seen through the historic prism, the first written document mentioning Debar is the map of Claudius Ptolemy, made around the middle of the 2nd century, where the settlement is called Deborus. Byzantine emperor Vasiliy II knew of its existence, while Felix Petanchikj calls this city Dibri in the year of 1502. During the time of the Ottoman Empire Debar was part of Bitola Vilayet (region / county). In the early 19th century Debar rebelled against the Ottoman Sultan, in this period, as claimed by a French writer, Debar had 64 shops and 4,200 residents. At the end of the century, the city had 15,500 inhabitants, but after the First World War, this number has decreased. In the period of 17th to 19th century, Debar has strongly developed wood carving schools. Its representatives have developed many iconostases in Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia and even Russia. At the end of the 18th century, Gligor Prichev, great Macedonian leader of national revival, was imprisoned in Debar prison and he made a great description of the town in his autobiography. Because of its economic boom, the wealth of its residents and its famous master - constructors of Debar and masons at the time of the Ottoman Empire there was a proverb saying: Istanbul is burning, Debar is rebuilding it.

All this information confirms that in the Debar region there is nearly 2,000 years of civilization. This means that all previous periods in the region of Debar exist with quite testimonies of people and cultures that existed in this area.

Historic localities

In terms of historic localities, in the wider region of Debar there are plenty of resources that do deserve some attention. In the paragraphs below, follows a list of 40 objects, located on 14 different sites.

BANJISHTE

Abranovci, medieval necropolis. A hundred meters west of the village, on a mild slope there are encountered crude stone structures from the grave. These graves are of cyst type with west - east orientation. **Krasta**, medieval church and cemetery. On the road between the village Brajkovski and the Center neighborhood it can be found and seen a ruins of a small church and around tombs built of stone. **Rov**, medieval necropolis. In the immediate vicinity of the village, on the left bank of Banishka River, close to Boris's mill, in the field of Osman Leshi, there were discovered graves with stone constructions - type cyst.

GORNI KOSOVRA TSI

On top of Crkov, medieval necropolis. The southeastern edge of the village, on the right side of the road to the village you can see crude roof tiles of grave constructions - type cyst. **Kale**, positioning fort from late ancient time.

DEBAR

In **Gorno Udovo there** is a settlement from the Iron Age and the middle Ages. 2 km east of the city, under the former road Debar - Skopje, on a mild slope that descends to the river Radika, there are numerous fragments of pottery. Today the site is submerged in the waters of hydro system Spilje. **House of Kaplan Arifi**, single findings from Roman times. In 1952, during the construction of the residential building on the street Bajram Selimi, Kaplan Arifi found a natural marble statue, of normal size. This statue represents a distinguished Roman citizen whose shoulders a covered and the cloak crosses the chest on the left side. The eyes are carved shallow, the cornea is marked with circular carved eye apple; hair is appointed with shallow punctures, and chin with short cuts. The forehead is low and wrinkled. The statue is dating from the III century and now it is kept in the Institute and Museum in Ohrid. **House of Karpuzi Muhamed**, depot of medieval coins. K. Mohamed, a teacher from Debar, during the construction of his house, have come accros several Venetian coins from XI century. These coins are stored by K. Muhamed. **Ski - Gorno Udovo** settlement and necropolis from Roman times. It is located approximately 2 kilometers east of the city, under the old road Debar - Skopje, on a slope that descends to the river Radika. On the property of the Monastery John the Baptist were discovered foundations of buildings built of stone and lime mortar. In the immediate vicinity graves were dug up, called teguli - type "two waters". Today the site is submerged in the waters of hydro accumulation Spilje. **Stojanica**, is a medieval church and cemetery. On the northern outskirts of the city on the hill that rises above gypsum factory, it can be seen some ruins of a church and nearby graves built of stone. **Suva cheshma (Dry Fountain) - Nova Gipsarnica (new gypsum factory)**, medieval necropolis. In 1941-1944, the employees of the "Rasadnik" company, during the work of the agricultural land, have found several graves. According to the testimony of one of the participants in these works, tombs were built of stone plates - cyst type, and inside of them, rings and copper coins were found. More recently, during the reconstruction of the entrance into the gypsum factory, also, have been found broken tombs built of stone tiles. In **the old carpet factory "Novost"** there is a medieval church and cemetery. While digging

the ground for expansion of the factory, graves like a cyst were discovered. In the immediate vicinity, over new plaster factory and carpet factory graves like a cyst were discovered. Also, in the immediate vicinity, over the new plant for gypsum and carpet factory, it can be found the ruins of small nave church.

DOLNO KOSOVRASTI

Elica, medieval church and cemetery. In the village, about 100 meters from the right bank of the river Radika, it can be partially observed the foundation on the nave church which has tombs built of stone - type cyst. **Zagradishta – Na klak**, is a medieval fortress. It is located southwest of the village, at the foot of Mount Krcin, on a hill with an irregular square base, which has a superb view of the valley of Radika and the nearby road. The surface encountered roofing tiles, bricks and many crushed stone. Near the place are noted foundations of buildings. **Star pat (old road)** is a medieval road. North of the village there are remains of the old road leading to the village Skudrinje. It is hacked in limestone rocks and has no construction.

ELEVCI

Bezhan, medieval settlement. In the area of the village, it is visible a heap of crushed stone and roof tiles that indicate the existence of a small settlement. **Rajki Evler**, medieval settlement. In the field of Amdi Eim, which is located about 1 km east of the village on the right bank of the river Dolga, a heap of stones, roofing tiles and parts of pottery are found.

KRIVCI

Alakati, a medieval necropolis. It is located approximately 1km south of the village on the right bank of downpour Alakat, on the right side of the rural road. In the Zike Krliu land, which is a mild slope, there were discovered tombs built of stone - type cyst. **Ogragje**, a necropolis from Roman times and the medieval church. In the immediate vicinity of the village, on both sides of the road to the village Banishte in the land belonging to Oloman Kaziu it was discovered a tomb built of monolithic slabs of limestone in the form of a sarcophagus. According to the testimony of the owner of the tomb there were more items: glass, pottery and bronze items that were not removed. In the immediate vicinity of the junction where the paved road to the village Banishte crosses the road to village Krivci, it can be found remains of nave church built of stone and brick. **Opre**, a medieval necropolis. At 100m from the house of Oloman Kaziu, on the right side of the road leading to the village, you can see the graves of roofing tiles with east - west orientation.

MOGORCHE

Holy Mary, a medieval church. At about 1 km east of the village on the left bank of the river Beleshnica, we can see the remains of a small church. **Vranska Krasta**, a fortification from the late ancient time. In the area where the villages' border is passing, between Mogorche and Osoj, on the right bank of the Mala River, in the vicinity of the in-flow of the Mala River into Beleshnica, a high hill is rising in a dominant position which is seen from the fortification walls. These walls are preserved on the south and south east side, and are built of stone and lime mortar. This fortification has protected the road that went from Debar to Kicevo. **Koshari**, a necropolis from Roman times. It lies in the fields of Sulejman Alioski, about 1 km away north of the village. On the surface, we can see traces of burnt soil, very loose, with strong red - yellow color. In several places there are pieces of burnt human bones and fragments of teguli. This is most likely damaged necropolis with tombs like "two waters", with cremated deceased. **Nikolica**, a medieval settlement and necropolis. On the eastern edge of the village, at the gentle slope, with a north - south orientation, walls of buildings of stone and lime mortar are seen. In the immediate vicinity there are graves with construction of large stone blocks, placed in east- west orientation.

OSOJ

Cross - St. Archangel, a medieval church and cemetery. At about 500 meters southeast of the village, on the right bank of Verski Dol, there is a small church dedicated to St. Archangel. In 1925, during the expansion of the church, there have being discovered foundations of an older building, and tombs built of stone, placed east-west.

OTISHANI

Groboj, a medieval necropolis. On some 500 meters, northeast of the village, on the gentle slope that descends to the lake, it was found a grave stone structures with east-west orientation.

RAJCHICA

Dolni Rabroec, a medieval church and cemetery. South of the village, 500m towards the lake, there are findings of debris objects built of stone and lime mortar. On the east side of the building it can be found a grave stone structure. In the fields of Strezo Topuzovski, tombs built of stone - cyst type were found, set in east - west.

SELOKUKJI

Mersuid, a medieval necropolis. Approximately 200m west of the village, near the neighborhood Jozhulija, Mukarem Hassan, during the work on his land, has discovered tombs built of stone. **Mojsieva Crkva (Moses Church)**, a medieval church and cemetery. On the western outskirts of the village, on the eastern slope of a high hill that dominates the surrounding area and the valley of Crn Drim, graves were found, but with no grave construction, covered with a stone slab only. These graves are with east - west orientation. Also you can see the foundations of a small single-nave church built of stone and lime mortar. **Muzlagica**, a settlement from Neolithic time. On the northern outskirts of the village in the neighborhood Taranesh, on the right bank of River Popovska, on the surface of the fields owned by Arifi Bajram Mustafa Koča, Xhemali Kazui and Elmas Duka are found fragments of pottery, household adhesive, stone axes and flint knives. This ceramics, based on the composition and ornaments, shows very close connection with pottery from Neolithic settlements in neighboring Albania and through it, especially impress - ornaments, with some settlements of the western Adriatic area. **Stara Crkva (Old Church)**, a necropolis of late ancient time. In the center of the village, near the village fountain, on an elongated ridge, with a north - south position, in the years 1945/46, during leveling the ground to build a village school, tombs built of stone - type cyst were discovered. There were no objects found in these graves. On the surface of the soil, different fragments of pottery and stone structures of the grave were found. **Taranesh**, a settlement and necropolis of Roman and late antique time. On the northern outskirts of the village, in the neighborhood Taranesh, in between the rivers of Popovska and Crn Drim, the highly flattened plateau shaped as irregular triangle gently descends to the river, in here, we can spot fragments of ceramic pots, pitosi, teguli, imbrexes and crushed stone. In the field of Besim Meljami, in 1982, it was performed protective excavation over the discovered grave - cyst type, and in this grave were found: golden cross-shaped fibula, gilded silver plate, silver bowl, writing utensils, bone chips for gaming, dijatreta cup, two spindel folis, iron ax and other silver items. The results are stored in the Museum of Macedonia in Skopje. **Shulon**, a medieval necropolis. At the eastern periphery of the village, to the house of Mustafa Moshku, it was discovered a several tombs built of stone with orientation east - west.

SPAS

Troja, a necropolis of the late ancient time. On the northwestern outskirts of the village, on the slightly flat terrace, during some agro activities, there were discovered graves - type cyst. On the surface of the ground we can see fragments of stone, partly processed, and also can be found fragments of pottery objects.

HAME

Raven, a medieval necropolis. East of the village, high in the mountains, while performing earthworks were discovered tombs built of stone - type cyst. **Crkva (Church)**, medieval necropolis. In the southwestern outskirts of the village, near the school, located on the surface, it can be found stone burial structures - type cyst. During the construction of the school, several graves were destroyed.

DZEPISHTE

Izvor (Source), a necropolis from Roman times. In the immediate vicinity of the motel "Nov Zivot", which is located on the right side of the road Debar - Ohrid, in 1967, during the setting of the power line poles, at a depth of 1m were discovered tombs built of tehuli - type "two waters". **Manastirec - St. Archangel**, a medieval church. At about 7km southeast of the village, near the four fountains besides the paved road Debar – Struga, there are a heap of stones, bricks and other building material. Here, we can see the perimeter foundation walls and apse. At this point, the locals gather at St. Archangel **Paraspur Day**, a settlement from the Roman times. At the eastern outskirts of the village, in the fields of E. Ramanovski and M. Selmanovski, during their work on the fields, it was discovered a foundations of buildings and ceramic pipes for plumbing. In this area, on the surface of the ground it was found fragments of pottery and many building materials.

Elen Skok Bridge (Deer Leap Bridge) was built during the presence of the Ottomans in the region. There are many legends and traditions related to this bridge more, out of which the most interesting is the one that tells us about a Turkish Bey who wanted to hunt the deer, while, at that time, the deer was known among the local people as a very cunning animal that will always succeed in running away from its hunters. During one chase, the deer was wounded and pressed in a hopeless situation, i.e. to the place where the bridge is now built. On the bank of Garska River he did the impossible and managed to jump across the river despite being tired and exhausted from the deep wound he had, and then died. Astonished by the courage of the deer and his persistence to fight for his freedom till the end, the Bey ordered, in his honor, to build the bridge, which in future will be a symbol of courage, honor, strength and struggle to persevere until the last breath. It is very interesting, for this beautiful monument of culture, that it is built on the site where the Roman road Via Egnatia was passing.

Architecture

What is extremely interesting for Debar region and the Valley of Radika River is the traditional and original architecture of the rural houses in the villages of Bitushe, Janche, Gari, Lazaropole and others.

In Debar – Reka region centuries do not follow one another – they live side by side; here, time losses its continuity and transfers itself in eternity. Here, one can witness the interlacing of the centuries of the civilizations heritage through the eras, and can sense the immaculate natural beauty, feeling the rhythm of Macedonia.

Debar – Reka region is located in the north-western part of the Republic of Macedonia and it is administratively divided between the municipality of Debar and the municipality of Mavrovo and Rostusha. Here, each visitor can enjoy the rich cultural-historic heritage when visiting the archaeological sites, medieval monasteries and churches, mosques, hamams and get enchanted by the unique old urban and rural architecture. Even during the first visit to the Debar – Reka region, one can witness representative objects with high architectural and art highlights, unknown and rarely seen in the other parts of the Republic of Macedonia. Old urban and rural architecture stands as witness of the superb craftsmanship of Miyak builders

who have, in their authentic way, presented the practical and aesthetic side of their masterpieces linking them with the traditional lifestyle in this region.

Gari village

The village of Gari is one of our most beautiful villages in the Republic of Macedonia. This village is for the first time mentioned in the written documents dating in the XIV century. Located on the slopes of Stogovo Mountain, in the Garska River valley, the village is part of the Miyak area. Laying on 1170 m.a.s.l., the village was built in an amphitheatre shape looking towards the clear Garska River, with preserved architecture typical for Miyak construction tradition, and extensive use of local construction material. Attributes of this architecture are result of the location and the climate conditions in the Miyak region. Wider village environment is characterized with continental climate with chilly summers and cold winters. The forest that surrounds the village is consisting of thick beech and oak trees. Plentiful of spring waters, protected from strong winds, and yet mountainous village, makes the village Gari a destination with prosperous potential for development of alternative tourism, hospitality, recreational leisure and cultural activities.

Galichnik village

Galichnik – and one instantly remember perhaps the most famous custom in the Republic of Macedonia – the Galichnik wedding. Centuries-long tradition with contemporary scenography is yet again placed in the village centre each year. In this real-life performance, young couples get married uniting modern habits and centuries-long traditions. The village is a real representative of traditional architecture, local customs and old legends. The fact that the village is part of the National Park “Mavrovo” emphasizes its uniqueness and special care it enjoys. The village houses are constructed in closed type with roomy interior organization built solely from local materials. The chardak (a wooden balcony) is a characteristic element of Macedonian traditional architecture and it can be found in almost every house in Galichnik and it is also of a closed type. Village ethnology opens solid grounds for development of an entrepreneurial idea for developing the village in the terms of tourism or catering industry, traditional foods, but also in the cultural sphere.

Kichinica village

The village of Kichinica is an image of the everyday life as it was at the end of the XIX century, an anthropological description of the times when the Debar – Reka region was developing the painting tradition, which is evident today in the Church St. Nikola. The compact mountain village located on the slopes of mountain Bistra within the National Park “Mavrovo” seems to have been there from the beginning of time, scattered among the surrounding slopes, the silver pine forest and the nearby pastures. The concept of a typical village house of Kichinica is to position the functions and energy in its middle and immediately reminds us of the folk stories – the cultural values told over and over within the family circles. As integrally designed and properly positioned in the surrounding nature, the village is a destination that may be considered as an added value through an authentic investment, repurposing or new construction – as a destination for leisure, vacation and recuperation.

New Hamam, Debar

The New Hamam is located in the central area of the town of Debar, nearby the bazaar. There are no exact data on how the building was constructed, but the rumours indicate it dates from the XVIII century and a refurbishment is likely to have taken place in the XIX century. From a conceptual and functional aspect it is a developed type Hamam. This Hamam is renowned in the Region for being the only one containing all functional elements – changing room, intermediate room, bathing room, water tank and fi replace, and the longest operating one; it was opened until 1992. Today, this building is being reconstructed

and represents an art gallery. The potential of the New Hamam is to be further developed as a multifunctional cultural space.

The Old Hamam, Debar

The Old Hamam in Debar is a cultural good showing the visible style and architectural values of the classic Islamic architecture. The construction is comprised of smooth walls and domes made of stone, bricks and lime mortar. Concerning the investment potential, it is important that the Old Hamam contains all necessary rooms and properties to perform its function. The quality parameters of this cultural good enable building a concept for further development of its potential. Located in the central town area, the Old Hamam in Debar, even though abandoned and out of the main focus, possesses the space and energy from which could be emerged interesting creative shapes, expressions and functions focused on the art. This cultural heritage asset if possibly reconstructed might even bring to the present the traditional custom of enjoying the Old Hamam functionalities.

The house of Gani Grazhdani

If one were to evoke only for a moment the memories of the old town and town carriages, one would easily add to that image the House of Mr. Shain Shainovski (formerly of Mr. Gani Grazhdani). This house is one of the best representations of the XIX century traditional architecture in Macedonia. In 1968, the town Debar transforms this house in a protected cultural good, destination worthy of attention and a premise reminder of the urban life in Debar as it was hundred years ago. The rich ornamental interior, the symmetrical functional solution, representative of this type of Debar houses, is a great foundation for adaptation. The adequate repurposing, along with the existing properties, would create a premise eligible for creative expression, hospitality or perhaps a cultural centre. (This house no longer exists!)

The house of Velju Suri

This wonderful town house in the centre of Debar would make you imagine it about the period of its glory – the XIX century. Today, the House of Velju Suri is unattended and one of the rare types in the Republic of Macedonia that deserves better attention, both for its architectural concept and rich interior. The house is typical for Debar, symmetrically constructed with a ground floor, first floor, and the traditional enclosed chardak (a wooden balcony). The house interior reveals a great story in its interesting and plentiful decorations, carved wooden ceilings, doors and chests. The house is challenging through its development potentials, especially in the field of hospitality, tourism and culture.

Religious facilities

Mosques

Inchar Mosque, in Debar, is one of the oldest mosques build in Macedonia (the oldest of all 9 mosques in debar). It was built in 15th century (in the year of 1468), by the decree of the sultan Mehmet II.

Bajram Beg mosque, in Debar, was built in 19th century.

Churches and monasteries

Ascension of the Virgin Mary's is a parish church of Debar - Reka parish. It is located in the settlement Varos, in the upper part of the town of Debar. The church was built in the mid-19th century, probably in 1840 over the foundations from the 11th century. The church is

three-nave basilica architecture, frescoes and iconostasis is especially nice since the 19th century. This church was once the seat of the Diocese, which included the space adjacent to the Albanian town of Peshkopeja.

Baptist Monastery, St. John the Baptist

This monastery is built on the slopes of Bistra Mount and is surrounded by lush forest and beneath adjacent flowing clear waters of the river Radika. The monastery has a beautiful view of the mountain Korab, with its peaks, Big and Small Korab, as well as picturesque villages Rostuse, Velebrdo, Bitushe and Trebiste. Near the monastery are also located the following Reka villages: Gary , Osoj , Tresonche, Galichnik, Rosoki and Lazaropole, places which gave birth to a pleiad of builders (constructors), artists - painters and carvers who throughout the XIX century built , paint and decorated with carved iconostasis in many churches and monasteries on the entire area of the Balkan Peninsula. Baptist Monastery was a beacon and pillar of enlightenment and literary transcript activity center. It educated many priests, monks and teachers who spread educational activities in all parts of Macedonia. This was the cradle for many big names, like Archimandrite Partenie Zografski Archimandrite Arsenie of Galichnik - abbot of the monastery, Georgi Puleski and many others. The monastery church was built on the foundations of an older church. It was mentioned in some old Zograf's papers (1527-1728). The monastery is one of the most beautiful in Macedonia and in the entire orthodox world. The location where the monastery is built is full with healing springs and water, warm in winter and cool in summer, because of this, in a way, it is considered as blessed. The founder of the monastery was the monk Jovan of Debar in 1020, who at that time was Archbishop of Ohrid. The monastery was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and because of the stone which was used for building the monastery (bigor is a type of stone similar to travertine and lime stone) and you can find this stone in the whole area, monastery was named St. Jovan Bigorski the Baptist and by this name is recognized worldwide. The reason for building this monastery right here was the icon of St. John the Baptist, who was found as hovering over water springs. This icon is miraculous and, despite the beautiful and unique iconostasis made of carved wood, it represents one of the greatest treasures of the monastery. The iconostasis is a kind of masterpiece; it has incorporated carved parts from the Bible, and was made between 1829 and 1835 by the masters Peter and Marko Filiposki, from the village of Gary.

Monastery of St. George the Victorious, village of Rajchica

Church of St. George the Victorious, in the Rajchica village is located two kilometers from the town of Debar – this was a former Bigorski monastery metoh, but now is a monastery with female monastic order. Until recently (2000) the former monastery metoh existed at the same time as the church did, St George Victorious was built in 1835 and consecrated in 1836. In the frame of the church yard, in the ruins, some commercial buildings existed and were used for storage of hay, but recently, probably when the church was built, it was built a beautiful fountain with drinking mountain water.

Tourism premises

In the region of Debar and Mavrovo-Rostuse municipalities, there are about 20 **accommodation facilities**, such as: Hotel Banja Banjishte, Hotel Venec, Spa Hotel Kosovrasti (these 3 hotels are located in Debar) , Kalin Hotel (Lazaropole) Hotel Tuto (Jance) , Hotel Bistra, hotel Lodge, Villa Mavrovo, hotel MAKPETROL, hotel Radika, hotel Sport, hotel Srna, hotel Alpina , Ethno house Angelovski, motel Delfina, hotel Inn, Ethno house St. Moritz, hotel TCC Plaza, hotel Fersped (these 14 accommodation facilities are located in Mavrovo) and hotel Neda (Galichnik).

Spa Centers

In Debar region there are 2 spa centers: Kosovrasti and Banjishte.

Hunting grounds

Debar region has 1 hunting ground, which is a concession to the local hunting association, named Stogovo 1.

Ski centers

In this region and in the country, ski center Mavrovo is one of the oldest and most famous ski resorts.

Events

Galichka wedding or Petrovden's Galichka svadva is held every year on St. Peter's Day, July 12th. It is rich with a very original, unique and unforgettable wedding customs and rituals. During the days of the wedding, you can hear pipes and drums echoing "From Galichnik to Reka", with all the underground and above-ground echo towards the stone of Bistra and up in the sky. Those companions of migrant workers in this region of Macedonia are always announcing Galichnik wedding which has a lot of wedding guests. Galichnik wedding, with its existence contributed to the nurturing of the unique wedding customs and rituals of the local inhabitants of this region, preservation of folk songs, dances, and famous Galichka costume - made with filigree precision and accuracy of the tailors. Each year a special commission chooses two young people who will be getting married on Galichnik wedding. One of the prerequisites is that at least one of the youngsters comes from Galichnik family.

Traditional celebration of **Letnik** (14 March) and **Gjurgjovden** (6 May).

Racing kayak and canoe on Lake Debar.

Melon bed day, take place each year in August.

Albanian theater festival is an event that has a tradition of 15 years, now, and it is usually held in October.

Debar Cultural Summer. This event lasts for 30 days and usually takes place at the end of July and the beginning of August.

Local food specialties

Debar's jufki (local pasta).

Kabunija, dish prepared from rice and meat, with a mild flavor, are often various added dried fruits.

Birja, meal prepared from rice and ram's testicles.

Tourism development planning processes in Debar municipality

With reference to the development of the tourism sector, we have to mention that the municipality of Debar has a structural approach in the development of this sector. In this direction, the municipality has defined 3 touristic zones, namely: the cost of Debar Lake (for this location GUP or General Urban Plan is already finished, while the DUP or detailed urban Plan is under preparation), Banjishte and Kosovrasti (for these 2 localities, the local planning documentation is in a process of preparation). Also, we have to mention that in joint efforts with the Knauf Company, the municipality is planning bigger & improved usage of the Cristal Cave (cave located in the area which is under concession by Knauf factory).