

## Special Nature Reserve “Deliblato Sands”

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The largest European continental sands region is located in the southeast part of the Pannonian Plain, in Banat. It is elliptical in form and oriented in the southeast-northwest direction. It was formed during the Glacial Epoch of deep layers of aeolian siliceous-calcareous sand. During the modern age, the wind *košava* shaped the

expressive dune relief. The temperate continental climate, the absence of surface watercourses and the sandy soils conditioned the special life communities which are singled out in a special plant-geographical region *Deliblatikum*.

Special Nature Reserve "Deliblato sands" covers nearly 35,000 hectares on which a three-degree regime of protection has been established. Also this area is internationally verified by the List of the most significant bird sites in Europe.

The unique mosaic of ecosystems consists of the typical species of flora and fauna, many of which are natural rarities significant by international criteria. The rich flora with more than 900 species, subspecies and varieties abounds in rarities, relics, endemics and subendemics. As the last and the largest oasis of the sands, steppe, forest and wetland vegetation, which were once dominant in the Pannonian Plain, Special Nature Reserve "Deliblato sands" is one of the most important centres of biodiversity in Serbia and Europe and the most significant steppe region in our country. The fringe pastures with the conserved traditional animal husbandry significantly enhance the value of the Reserve.

This region has been for centuries under the human influence, and especially during the last 185 years of intensive works in forestry, which have largely changed the previous landscape of the Sands; consequently it is a unique and unrepeatable mirror of the natural history and man's endurance.

The typical villages along the fringe of the protected nature area preserve the atmosphere of the past times and complement the unique appearance of this picturesque landscape.

The trustee of the protected nature area, the State Enterprise "Vojvodinašume" - Forest Estate "Banat" Pančevo, assisted by the professionals of different profiles, scientists, naturalists and all nature lovers, works on the protection of the Special Nature Reserve "Deliblato sands" and enables its sustainable development to the benefit of the future generations.

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