

Assessment and mapping of sparsely vegetated land ecosystems condition and their services in Bulgaria

Svetlana Bancheva, Anna Ganeva, Vladimir Vladimirov

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Acad. G. Bonchev, bl. 23, 1113-Sofia, Bulgaria, sbancheva@yahoo.com

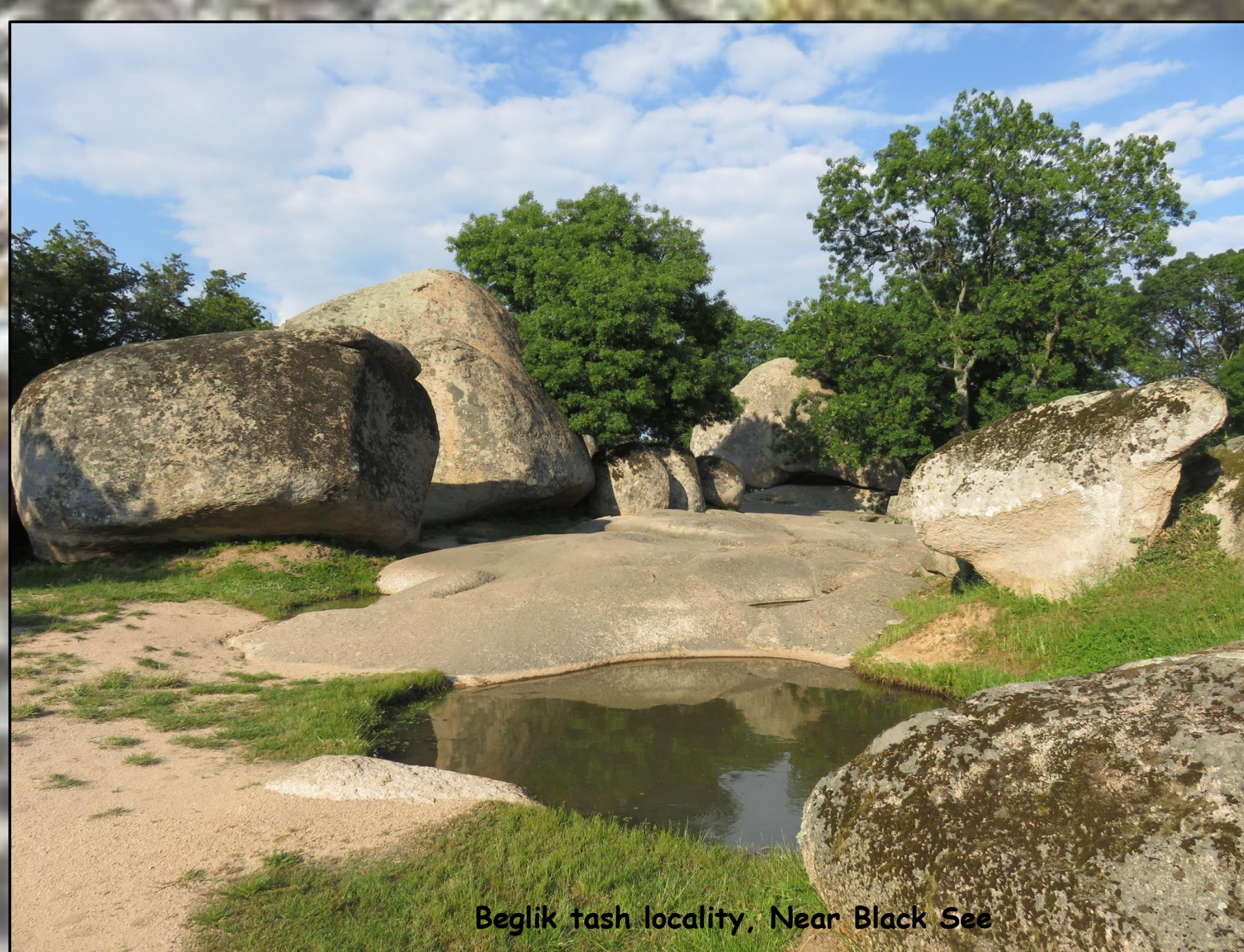
Sparsely vegetated land ecosystems are places where vegetation is lacking or very scarce. According to the ecosystem classification of MAES they include coastal dunes and sandy shores; coastal shingle; coastal rock cliffs, ledges and shores, including the supralittoral; screes; inland cliffs, rock pavements and outcrops. Although these ecosystems occupy a relatively small area of the territory of Bulgaria, they have a very important role in protecting of particular species of the flora and fauna of the country, and in providing valuable services to people.



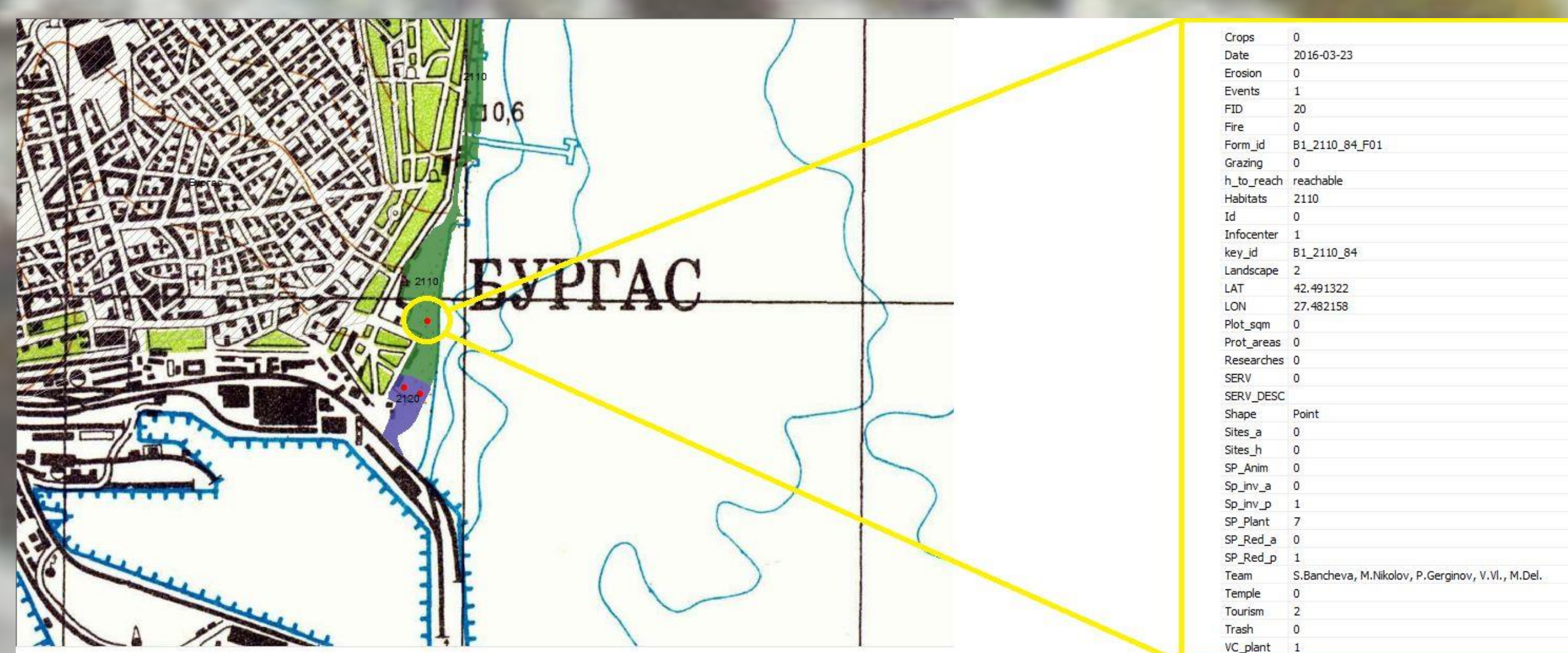
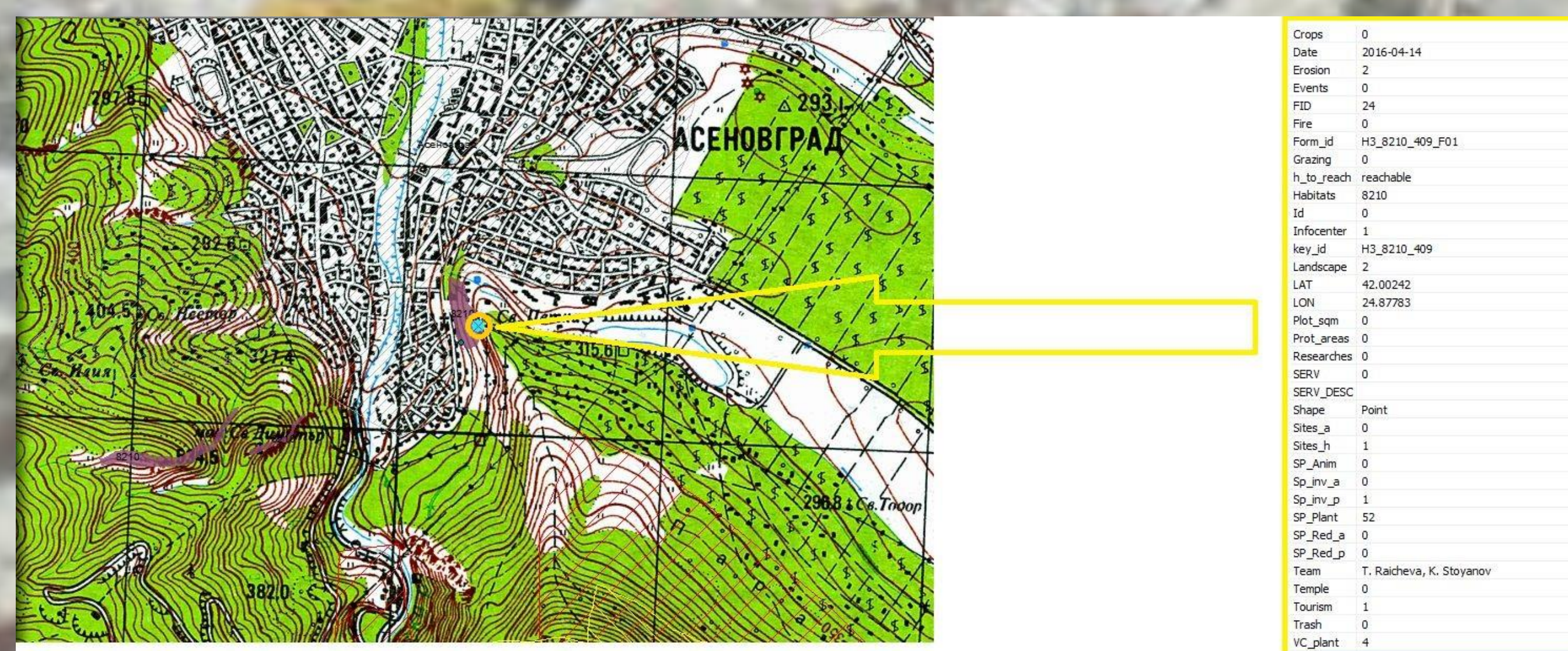
The need to study and assess the condition of ecosystems and their services is outlined in a number of strategic documents, such as Action 5 of Target 2 *Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services of the EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020*. In Bulgaria nine types of ecosystems are present and mapping and assessment of their state and services already started in 2015 and is still ongoing.



For assessment of ecosystems and their services a set of relevant indicators is used as part of a special methodology developed during the predefined project BG03.PDP2 *Methodological support*. These indicators provide information about the area of the respective ecosystem type, richness of the taxonomic groups presented, threats to the actual and potential ecosystem services.



At the same time, they reflect changes in ecosystem state and services over time. The implementation of the activities began with collection of relevant information and GIS-modelling of the distribution of sparsely vegetated land ecosystems in Bulgaria, followed by verification of these models in the field, mapping and assessment of ecosystem condition and services.



The main outcome of the project is the preparation of several map and GIS layers on the state of ecosystems with sparse vegetation in Bulgaria and their services.

Acknowledgments

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