The territory of present-day Bulgaria (110,000 sq km) has been served since deep antiquity as a natural bridge for the ancient peoples from Europe and Asia. The oldest traces of human activity during the Neolithic are dated about 9,000 years B.P., when the gradually alteration and injury of nature have begun.

Five-century Ottoman Rule (14th - 19th century A.D.) has been influenced on the managing of natural resources of the country also. Bulgaria has been chiefly considered as one of most important raw material suppliers for the craftsmanship and the industry of the Ottoman Empire. The modern history of Bulgaria begins with its liberation from the Ottoman dominion in 1878. The accelerated process of accumulation of capitals and the extensive industrial development followed. They were accompanied by the ceaseless increasing of the consumption by the processing of the various country's natural resources.

Latter it went through difficult periods of wars (besides the World War I and II), which additionally influenced negatively the environment as a whole.

The 45-year communist regime of government of the country (1944-1989) has pursued a course of extensive development of heavy industry, often without observing of the realities, including the natural preconditions. The natural landscape destruction and the deforestation led to the considerable change for the worse of the environment. At present, forests cover 28 %, but only two third of them are native forests. By the other hand, the agricultural land represents 61 % of the country's territory, two thirds of which are arable land. In the same time 21.4 % (763 species) of the higher flora and 22.1 % (157 species) of the vertebrate fauna of Bulgaria are vulnerable or endangered.

As a result of all these changes, the Bulgarian nature (soils, air, water, flora and fauna) is near to its survival limits in spite of the fact that the total territory of protected areas reached up to 3.25 %. Fortunately, the 9-million present-day Bulgaria is still a country with almost virgin large areas of its nature, where natural parks and nature reserves of regional, continental and biospheral importance could be constituted. The biodiversity of Bulgarian wildlife is high and the main reason for it is the specific geographical position on the crossroad between Europe, Asia and Africa.