



Revealing Landscape structure in two contrast high mountain sites in Bulgaria as a basis to investigate and evaluate contemporary geomorphic processes

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The study presents the initial stage of a new research programme that has been started in Bulgarian highest mountains Rila and Pirin. The programme's main goal is to research and evaluate contemporary geomorphic processes that occur in Bulgaria's sub-alpine and alpine environments and the relation of these processes to climate in order to model environmental reactions on possible climatic changes.

In this first stage a preliminary geomorphic and landscape mapping has been done for the two chosen key sites (Musala cirque in Rila and Kazanite cirque in Pirin) through analyzing aerial photographs and several field visits in summer 2006. Revealing the landscape structure of these representative areas will help to select research transects and establish processes measurement on a landscape basis as well as to evaluate the differences between the two main types of high mountain environments in Bulgaria.