

**EUROPEAN STRATEGIES OF BIOLOGICAL BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION.
PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF NATURE IN SOUTH-EASTERN MOLDAVIA.**
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"Nature 2000" is part of the European strategies to protect the present biological diversity. It represents an ecological network of protected natural areas meant to maintain the most important types of habitats and species in a state of favorable conservation.

Nature 2000 network consists of: *special areas of conservation* – established through executive order no. 92/43 of 1992 concerning conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora and *special protected areas* established through executive order no. 79/409 of 1979 concerning conservation of wild birds.

Within the Romanian legislation, these two executive orders were transposed through Law No. 462 of 2001 (for approval of the government emergency order no. 236 of 2000 concerning the status of protected natural areas, conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora), Law no. 345 of July 17, 2006 for modification and completion of emergency order no.236 of 2000 concerning the status of protected natural areas, conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, emergency order no. 57 of 2007 concerning the status of protected natural areas, conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora.

Southeastern Moldova is included in the Romanian South Eastern Development Area 2 and has a surface of 35746 sq. km. It represents the largest hydrographic basin in the country with important rivers like the Danube, Siret River and Prut River. Also, there is a great geographic and biologic diversity in the Danube Delta, on the Black Sea Coast, the Baragan Plain, the Macin Mounains and the Vrancea Mountains.

There are 134 protected natural areas in the South Eastern Area, out of which the most important are The Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation, Balta Mica a Brailei Natural Park, and Lunca Joasa a Prutului Inferior Natural Park. Their total surface is about 689,567 ha which is one third of the national protected areas. A Ramsar site statute have The Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation (1991 – 580,000 ha), Balta Mica a Brailei Natural Park (2001 – 20,456 ha) and Techirghiol Lake (2006 – 1462 ha).

On the territory of Galati County, 16 natural areas are protected as natural reservation (through Law no. 462 of 2001 concerning the status of protected natural areas, conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora). The most representative reservations are: the scientific reservation from Hanu Conachi, first declared in 1940, with a surface of 13 ha, being extended to about 200 ha in 1976. It has the richest sand flora in Moldova with many rare species like *Festuca vaginata*, *Polygonum arenarium*, *Salix rosmarinifolia*, *Achillea kitaibeliana*, *Centaurea arenaria*, *Dianthus kladovanus* etc.

Breana Roscani Forest Reservation, with a surface of 88 ha, important for the vegetal associations of *Quercus pubescens*, *Q. pedunculiflora*, *Iris pseudocyperus*, *Astragalus ponticus*, *Inula hirta*, etc. Its scientific importance is amplified by the presence of *Paeonia peregrine*; the scientific reservation Garboavele, with a surface of about 110 ha mainly contains Pontic, Balkanic and Mediterranean flora which are rare in Romania: *Adonis volgensis*, *Astragalus dasyanthus*, *Asparagus ponticus*, *Dianthus diutinus*, *Asperula scutellaris*, etc.; Rates-Tecuci paleontologic reservation, with a surface of 1.5 ha, with many fossils of quaternary mammals: *Elaphas primigenius*, *Coelodonta antiquitatis*, *Cervus megaceros*, *Bos primigenius*, *Bison priscus*, *Archidiscodon meridionalis*, *Camelus alutensis*, etc.

Through the executive order no. 2151 of 2004 concerning the status of natural protected area for new areas there has been founded *Lunca Joasă a Prutului Inferior Natural Park* on the Lower Prut, with a surface of 8247 ha. Among the Sites of Community Importance in Galati county are: *Balta-Munteni Forest*, *Mogoș-Mățele Forest*, *Torcești Forest*, *Pogănești Forest*, *Gârboavele Forest*, *Breana-Roșcani Forest*, *Lower Prut Water Meadow*, *the Sand Dunes from Hanu Conachi*, *Tălășmani Forest*, *Merișor - Cotul Zătuanului Forest*. We also mention that the special protected areas in the Lower Prut region were included in an extended area - *Prut Lower Water Meadow* included in *Lunca Joasă a Prutului Inferior Natural Park*. Another special protected area – *Lower Siret Water Meadow* is situated in the Lower Siret area.

Galati County flora includes 1442 species and 305 subspecies. Vertebrate fauna includes 26 mammal species, 239 bird species, 13 reptile species and 14 amphibian species. According to Bănărescu's data (1994), Lower Danube ichtiofauna is represented through 54 fish species, out of which *Acipenser sturio* and *Acipenser nudiventris* have disappeared from the Lower Danube hydrographic basin.

Other species like *Acipenser ruthenus ruthenus*, *Aspro zingel*, *Zingel streber*, *Tinca tinca*, *Misgurnus fossilis*, etc. are vulnerable in the Prut River. Among the rare species we mention: *Felis silvestris*; *Martes martes*; *Lutra lutra*; *Putorius evermanni*; *Mustela erminea*; *Canis aureus* etc.

Birds that are rare in Galati are: *Botaurus stellaris*; *Ardeola ralloides*; *Egretta alba*; *Ciconia nigra*; *Plegadis falcinellus*; *Platalea leucorodia*; *Branta ruficollis*; *Tadorna tadorna*; *Aythya nyroca*; *Haliaeetus albicilla*; *Aquila pomarina*; *Pandion haliaetus*; *Falco cherrug*; *Haematopus ostralegus*; *Recurvirostra avosetta*; *Himantopus*

himantopus; Numenis arquata etc. Amphibian and reptile species that are reduced in number in the area are: *Pelobates fuscus; Eremias arguta; Coluber caspius, Coronella austriaca; Vipera berus* etc.

The strategy to preserve biodiversity at a national and regional level also includes printing of books and red lists by each of the European countries. This represents an alarm signal meant to draw the public attention on species in critical condition or even subject to extinction.

The role of biodiversity in environment protection is of crucial importance because the southeastern Moldova is permanently subject to floods, long draughts, important soil erosions, landslides, etc. Biodiversity is also important as a recreational and health factor, in the development of ecological tourism etc.

Due to the special diversity and the conservation level, the protected southeastern areas of Moldova represent areas with a great ecological potential, both in habitats and biological diversity.

Through a correct and efficient administration of these areas it is intended to maintain and protect the ecological values of the natural ecosystems, especially now, when the European network of protected areas Nature 2000 is being implemented in Romania. An efficient management of the protected areas is an imperious necessity for the strategies on environment protection and conservation.

Thus, in order to preserve the natural patrimonium of each nation it is very important to provide an efficient protection of the biological diversity of the species and their habitats. The future generations are, after all, entitled to a decent and quality life.

