



Implementing Natura 2000:

status – problems – practical solutions in Romania

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Main steps Natura 2000 in Romania

- First adaptation of the 2 Directives in Romanian legislation December 2004
- Updated legislation 2006 and 2007 – continuous changes
- Government starts designation December 2005
- SPAs list elaborated December 2007
- pSCIs list elaborated July 2007
- Public information campaign run by the MoE summer-autumn 2006
- NGOs working on the implementation since 2003





The institutional framework of Natura 2000 network implementation

- Ministry of Environment and Water Management (MEWM) through the Directorate of Nature Conservation, Biodiversity, Biosafety (**National Coordinator for Natura 2000 Network**);
- National Agency for Environmental Protection (NEPA);
- 8 Regional Agencies for Environmental Protection (REPAs);
- 42 Local Agencies for Environmental Protection and (LEPAs);
- Administrations of the already designated natural protected areas (including the “Danube Delta” Biosphere Reserve Administration - DDBRA);
- National Environmental Guard (NEG) as control authority;
- “Danube Delta” National Institute for Research and Development (INCDD).





Main stakeholders

- **Ministry of Environment and Forest**

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**

- Ministry of Finance

- Ministry of Transport

- Ministry of Industry and Commerce

- **Romanian Academy**

- County Councils, Local administrations, Local communities

- National Forest Administration

- National Water Management Company

- Hunters and Fisherman Associations

- Private Forest Owners Administrators Associations

- Land Owners Associations

- Businessman and Investors

- Church

- **Universities**

- **Museums**

- **Research Institutes**

- **Mass-media**

- **NGOs: Romanian Natura2000 NGOs Coalition**





Procedural aspects of implementation

European Union requirements

Romanian Government
Ministry of Environment
& Water Management

Designation of SCI
through MO

Designation of
SPA through GD

Request for
scient.&techn.
assistance
(by contract)

Periodical Reports
(about proposal sites,
species criteria etc.)
feedback

Public consultation

- NEPA;
- REPAs;
- LEPAs;
- Stakeholders;
- Persons/institutions that made the proposals

Romanian Academy
(Data validation)

Danube Delta National Institute
(analysing, verifying)

DATABASE
Data gathering, information exchange

research
institutes,
universities etc.

NEPA,
LEPAs,REPAs
"other information" text fields

Voluntaries
NGOs, private persons
etc.





Protected areas and Natura 2000 in Romania

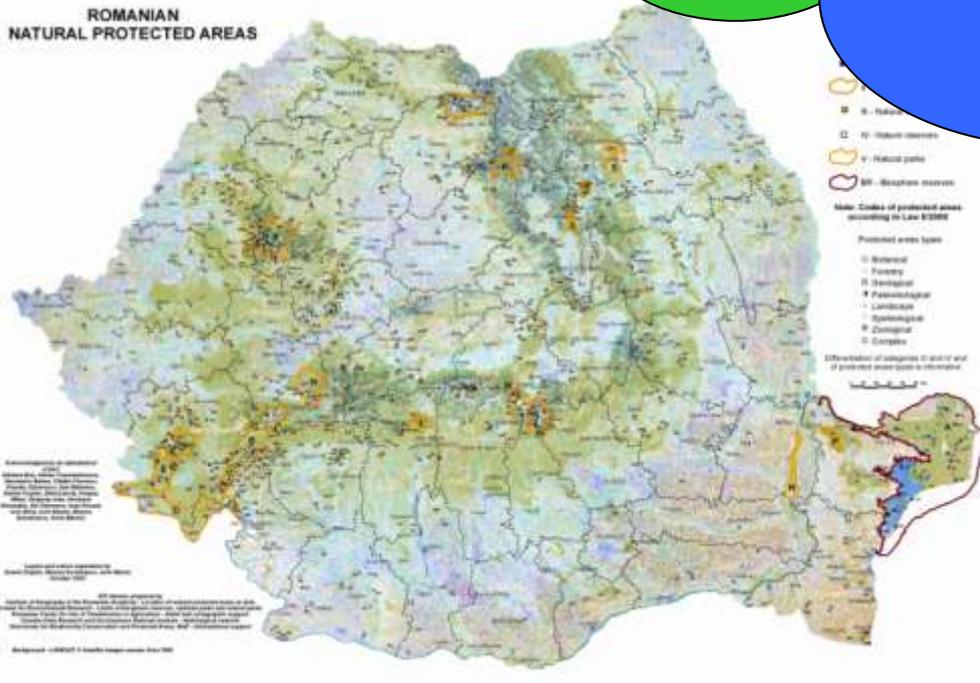
Romanian protected areas: designated on scientific, landscape, cultural, historical, archeological criteria.

Natura 2000 sites: designated exclusively on scientific criteria: species and habitats endangered at European level.

8%

18%

ROMANIAN NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

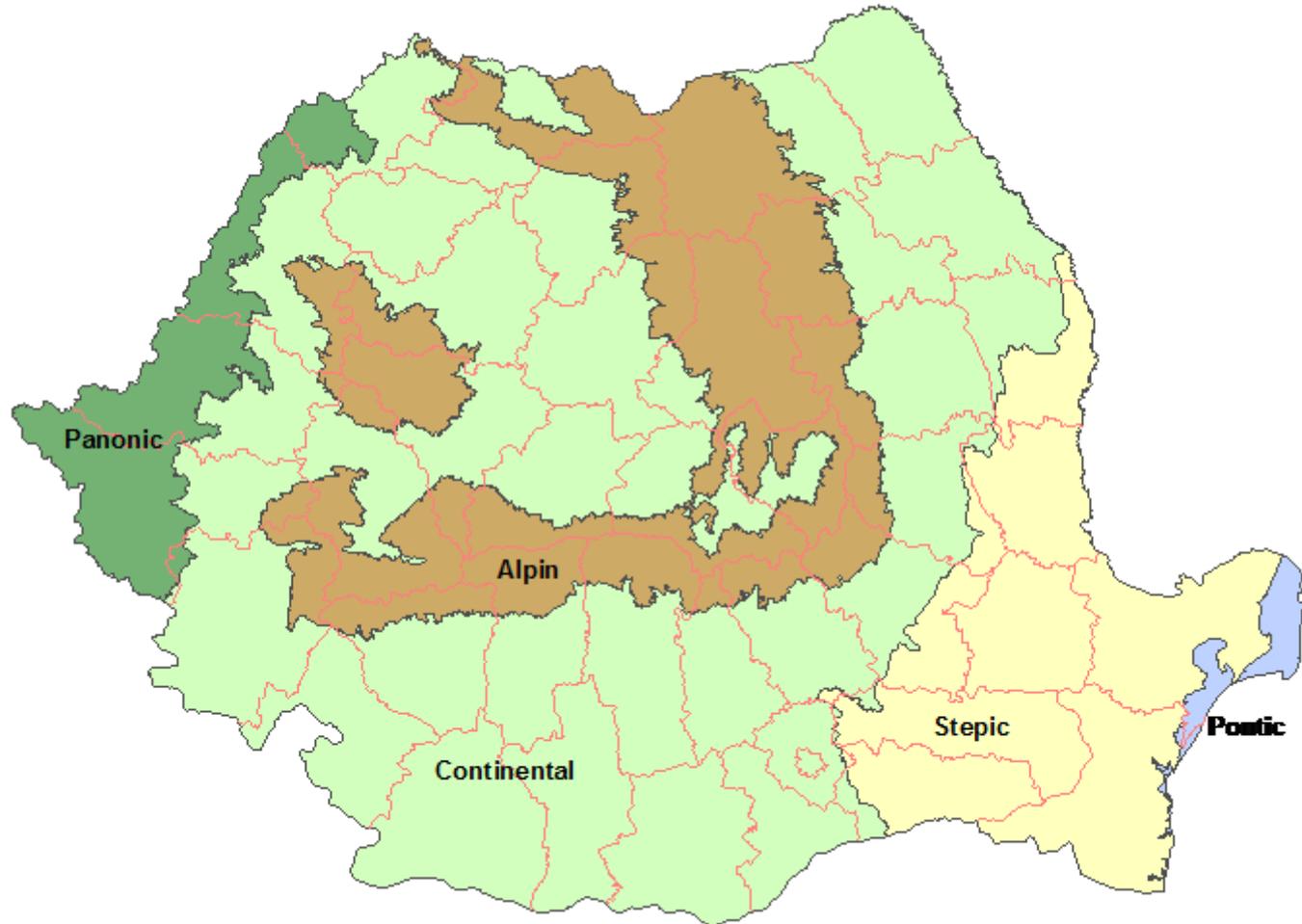


Intensification of agriculture : conversion of steppes into arable lands, irrigation, drainage of wetlands, overgrazing, Building of dams



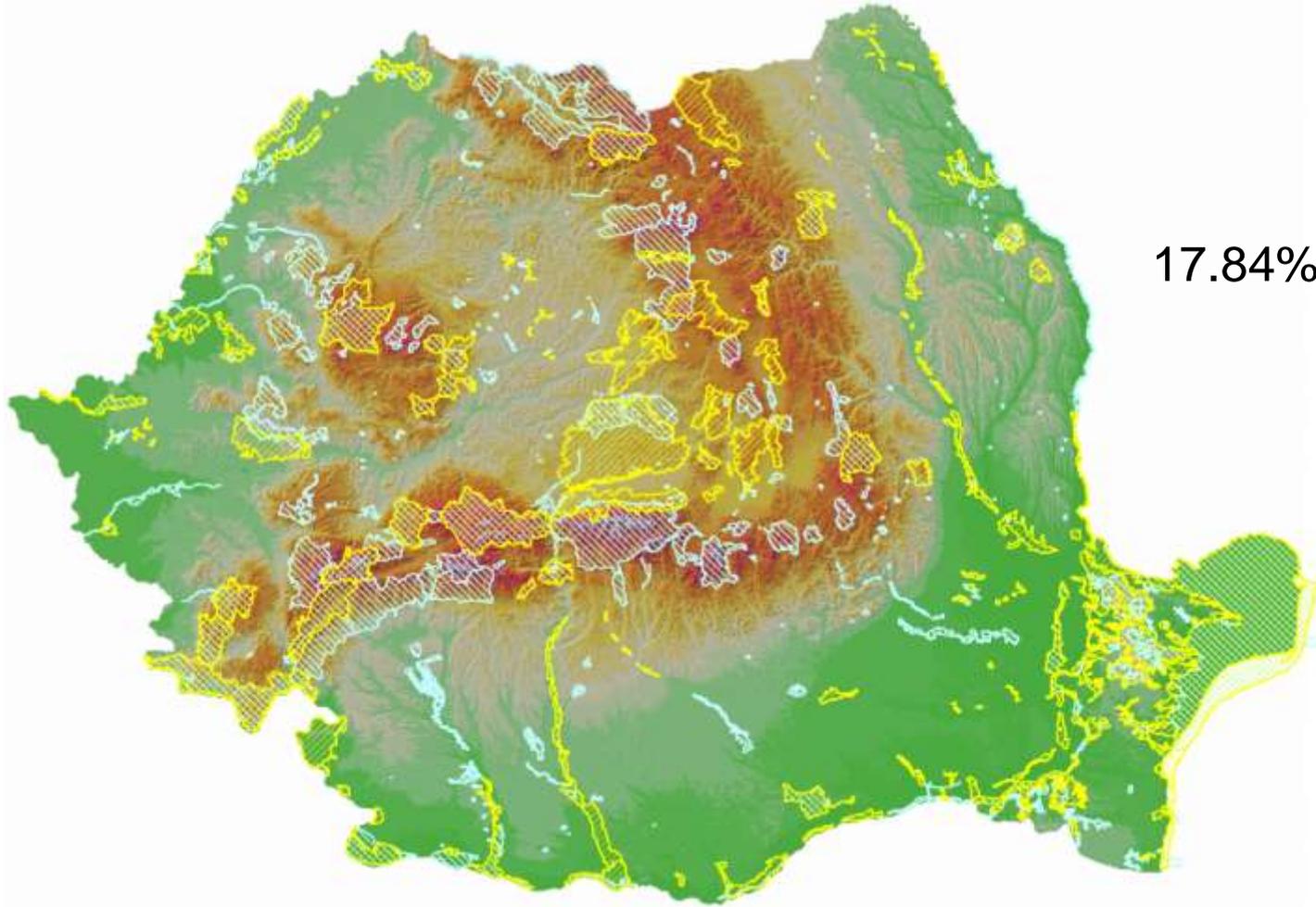


Biogeographical regions of Romania





SCIs and SPAs Overlap



17.84% of Romania





NGO Coalition

Natura2000 Romania

- Established by 20 NGOs in October 2003, now with 51 members;
- Main objective: to contribute to the effective, complete and timely implementation of Natura 2000 in Romania and support biodiversity conservation actions;
- Main activities:
 - develop and implement projects for sites designation and management
 - information/ public awareness on Natura 2000 and PAs;
 - campaigning for PAs and biodiversity conservation;
 - networking and information exchange between members;
- Structure:
 - Non legal entity. Representative Council (7 members) and Annual General Meeting. One secretariat – selected at each two years - WWF DCP





Contributions

1. Sites designations

- First **Habitat Manual** developed;
- **SOR** (BirdLife Partner) and **MILVUS** designated all the SPAs at national level;
- **WWF-DCP** in partnership with State organizations (LIFE05NAT/RO/000176: "Priority forest, sub-alpine and alpine habitats in Romania"):
 - distribution maps for forests, dwarf pine and grassland habitats;
 - 56 pSCIs for priority forest, alpine and sub-alpine habitats within the LIFE project;
- Other **members**:
 - collecting data for 12 species and 5 habitats;
 - developing data standard forms for 53 pSCIs;





Habitat manual development

- One working group of forestry and biology experts was established for the analysis of the Romanian habitats.
- The experts gathered and analyzed all existing information on the various habitat classification systems that are used in Romania and developed a list of habitats as defined in the Romanian typology.
- A correspondence with other vegetation classification systems was established for each habitat type (including the correspondence with Natura 2000 – i.e. habitats in Annex 1 of the Habitat Directive).
- For each habitat a general description was provided along with other useful information (e.g. climate, altitudinal range, soils, geology and geomorphology, approximate area at national level, distribution within the country, species composition and structure, conservation value and sources of literature)





Habitat manual development

- the first draft underwent many changes as a result of many meetings and debates with other top scientists from different research and education institutes. Also, some changes were necessary due to the discussions with Scientific Working Group of the Directorate General for Environment (European Commission) referring to amendments proposed by Romania and Bulgaria to the Habitats Directive annexes.
- Finally, the Habitats Manual including all natural habitats occurring in Romania was printed in March 2006 (1000 copies) and it was distributed to APMs, ARPMs, different consultants, scientists and institutions (education, research, management, policy makers).
- **It was used at national level as a reference source in the field work for Natura 2000 sites designation and description during 2006.**
- **Due to its importance and added scientific value, the manual received the annual award of the Romanian Academy.**





Contributions

2. Trainings for Natura 2000 Summer – Autumn 2006:
 - WWF DCP initiates preparations of the trainings sessions for Natura 2000 and PAs
 - 9 national and regional trainings organized with MoE and NEPA for the personnel of Local and Regional Environment Protection Agencies;
 - Training materials produced to be used in future public information campaigns on Natura 2000;





Contributions

3. Lobby

- For improvement of the Protected Areas legislation;
- For other relevant legislation (i.e. establishment of National Protected Areas Agency, site designation laws)
- Lobby to include Natura 2000 Payments measures under European Funds for Rural Development measures;
- one working group was established together with the MoE and MARD to finish these measures.
- Working together with the MoE and changing/improving the Application Guidelines for EOP.
- Members nominated in the Monitoring Group for Environment Sectorial Operational Programmes (NGOs representative in the group);





Contributions

4. Public awareness

- Brochures, posters, books were published for dissemination;
- Photo exhibitions, press conferences were organized;
- A web site, a blog and an e-mail group list were available on-line; www.natura2000.ro,





Contributions

5. Watch dog role

- To prevent and stop illegal actions in existing PAs (letters, position papers and small campaigns);
 - Retezat Road (a former forestry road, modernized without the legal authorizations);
 - Wind turbine (SOR and Milvus / emplacement criteria);
 - Hunting law (sent back in Parliament);
 - Central European Rally Dakar Series (run on Earth Day, on PAs)
- Support and initiated court cases to stop illegal activities and request reconstruction:
 - Stiol Tarn (Rodna Mountains NP glacier tarn/ lake, destroyed by local authorities);
 - Ceahlau building (Church built a pilgrim house in Ceahlau NP)





Contributions

Preparing the SHADOW LIST:

- Preparing detailed analyses for biogeographic seminars;
- A list of “Important Bird Areas” produced to support the designation of SPAs;
- Designate more site according to the Biogeographical Conclusions. **More sites will be official designated this year!!!**
- Starting to prepare firs management plans for Natura 2000 sites and implementig POS Projects.





Other activities

Public awareness:

- BBI MATRA project:
 - Establishing the Inter-ministerial Working Group;
 - Publishing materials and organizing meetings for main stakeholders (foresters, businessmen, site administrators, NGOs, etc);
- Prepare a public campaign on “Super Ski in Carpathians” (project proposal developed);
- Active participation in the Technical Approval Commissions that give the green light for investments – to prevent negative impacts on PAs and biodiversity;





Other activities

- “Give a chance to Nature in court” (Environment partnership Foundation)- synthesis of legislation and guidelines for efficient prevention of illegal activities in PAs;
- “Letter from my protected areas” campaign
- Annual report;
- Press releases;
- Photo exhibitions and other events.





Other Natura 2000 projects

1. Project PHARE 2004 “Implementation of the Natura2000 Network in Romania” (EuropeAid/12/12160/D/SV/RO)

- 6 seminars, 8 exhibitions for stakeholders in each region (2007);
- Romanian Habitats Manual-revised published;
- Raising public awareness about Natura 2000: flyers, brochures;
- <http://n2k.nationalparks.ro/>

2. Twinning Project PHARE RO 2004/IB/EN/02 Sibiu

- Communication with the stakeholders issues: a regional strategy and a Guidance Paper for Stakeholder Involvement published; workshop “Natura 2000 Information Management Group” held;
- Fact sheets for proposed sites
- Information materials, a *first-aid kit for public participation* and a CD;
- <http://www.arpm7c.ro/twinning>





Other Natura 2000 projects

3. Twinning Project PHARE 2004/IB/EN-03 Timisoara

- Methodological Guide for Drafting Management Plans of Natura 2000 Sites - English version;
- Management plans of 5 pilot sites of the West Region – Romania;
- Habitats and Species Handbook - Pilot fiches
- Assessment of the Conservation Status of Habitats and Species of Community Interest – Guidelines
- Assessment of Natura 2000 Implementation at Regional Level
- Description of Responsibilities and Relations in the Implementation of Natura 2000 Network
- http://www.timisoara-twinning-environment.org/romania_en/le_projet

4. LIFE-Nature "Priority forest, sub-alpine and alpine habitats in Romania" (LIFE05NAT/RO/000176)

- Natura 2000 information brochure and flyer published;
- Romanian Habitats Manual and Potential Treats Study published;
- Romanian version of the Conservation in Partnership CE brochure to be published;
- www.lifenatura2000.ro





Thank you for your attention!



www.natura2000.ro

<http://romania.panda.org/>

