

Sustainable Management of Natural Protected Areas in Romania

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Type of Protected Areas in	Correspondence at international level	International Norms	Category of importance	Definition
Scientific Reserve	Strict Nature Reserve / Wilderness Area	Category I established by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	National Importance	Area of land and/or sea possessing some outstanding or representative ecosystems, geological or physiological features and/or species. Large area of unmodified or slightly modified land, and/or sea, retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation
National Park	National Park	Category II IUCN	National Importance	Natural area of land and/or sea, designated for natural values and for important ecosystems
Nature's Monument	:	Category III IUCN	National Importance	Area containing one, or more, specific natural or natural/cultural feature which is of outstanding or unique value because of its inherent rarity, representative or aesthetic qualities or cultural significance.
Natural Reserve	Habitat/Species Management Area	Category IV IUCN	National Importance	Area of land and/or sea with important habitats or species
Natural Park	Protected Landscape/Seascape:	Category V IUCN	National Importance	Area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, and often with high biological diversity.

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Biosphere Reserve “Delta”	Biosphere Reserve	UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve Programme (MAB), 1977	International Importance	Under article 4, biosphere reserves must “encompass a mosaic of ecological systems,” and thus consist of combinations of terrestrial, coastal, or marine ecosystems.
Special Area of Conservation	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora	Community Importance / Nature 2000	They are to protect the 220 habitats and approximately 1000 species listed in annex I and II of the directive which are considered to be of European interest following criteria given in the directive.
Special Protection Area for Birds / Fauna	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds	Community Importance / Nature 2000	Have a duty to safeguard the habitats of migratory birds and certain particularly threatened birds
Site of Community Importance	Site of Community Importance (SCI)	Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora	Community Importance / Nature 2000	A site which, in the biogeographical region or regions to which it belongs, contributes significantly to the maintenance or restoration at a favourable conservation status of a natural habitat type or of a species and may also contribute significantly to the coherence of Natura 2000, and/or contributes significantly to the maintenance of biological diversity within the biogeographic region or regions concerned

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Geopark	Geopark	UNESCO International Network of Geoparks Programme	International Importance	A territory encompassing one or more sites of scientific importance, not only for geological reasons but also by virtue of its archaeological, ecological or cultural value.
Wetland of International Importance	Wetland of International Importance	United Nation Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, , 1971	International Importance	The Convention uses a broad definition of the types of wetlands covered in its mission, including lakes and rivers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.
Natural Site of World Natural Heritage	Natural Site of World Natural Heritage	UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, , 1972	International Importance	precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

Type of Protected Areas in Romania	Administration	Imposing the Set of Rules and Management Plans	Management actions
Scientific Reserve	Administrative Body / Custody Body on the subordination / coordination of National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body / Custody Body, enforced through Order of the Minister of Environment and Forests	managed mainly for science / wilderness protection. available primarily for scientific research and/or environmental monitoring. is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.
National Park	Administrative Body on the subordination of National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body, enforced through Governmental Decision	Managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation (a) protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations, (b) exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area and (c) provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally
Nature's Monument	Administrative Body / Custody Body on the subordination / coordination of National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body / Custody Body, enforced through Order of the Minister of Environment and Forests	Protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
Natural Reserve	Administrative Body / Custody Body on the subordination / coordination of National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body / Custody Body, enforced through Order of the Minister of Environment and Forests	protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention. subject to active intervention for management purposes so as to ensure the maintenance of habitats and/or to meet the requirements of specific species

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Natural Park	Administrative Body on the subordination of National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body, enforced through Governmental Decision	protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such an area.
Biosphere Reserve “Delta”	Administrative Body on the subordination of Ministry of Environment and Forests	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body, enforced through Governmental Decision	According to “The Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves,” biosphere reserves are created “to promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere.”
Special Area of Conservation	Administrative Body / Custody Body on the subordination / coordination of National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body / Custody Body, enforced through Order of the Minister of Environment and Forests	Conservation of type of natural habitats or habitats of species for which the SAC was declared. Identification of threats and negative impacts on habitats / species, followed by mitigation and elimination of its. Measures for development of habitats / species.
Special Protection Area for Birds / Fauna	Administrative Body / Custody Body on the subordination / coordination of National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body / Custody Body, enforced through Order of the Minister of Environment and Forests	Conservation of type of natural habitats or habitats of species for which the SPA was declared. Identification of threats and negative impacts on habitats / species, followed by mitigation and elimination of its. Measures for development of habitats / species.

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Site of Community Importance	Administrative Body / Custody Body on the subordination / coordination of National Agency for Natural Protected Areas	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body / Custody Body, enforced through Order of the Minister of Environment and Forests	Conservation of type of natural habitats or habitats of species for which the SCI was declared. Identification of threats and negative impacts on habitats / species, followed by mitigation and elimination of its. Measures for development of habitats / species.
Geopark	Included to a National Park / , having an Administrative Body	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body, enforced through Governmental Decision	Conservation and preservation of the Geopark's archaeological, ecological or cultural value.
Wetland of International Importance	Selected from other Natural Protected Area having an Administrative Body	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body, enforced through Order of the Minister of Environment and Forests	At the centre of the Ramsar philosophy is the "wise use" concept. The wise use of wetlands is defined as "the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development". "Wise use" therefore has at its heart the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources, for the benefit of humankind.
Natural Site of World Natural Heritage	Included to other Natural Protected Area having an Administrative Body	Set of Rules and Management Plan elaborated by the Administrative Body, enforced through Order of the Minister of Environment and Forests	Conservation and preservation of the Site's natural value.

I will take as example the experience of my Non Governmental Organization “Echilibru” which has under custody 2 protected areas on Danube:

- - RO SPA 0024 “Confluence Olt – Danube” including RO SCI 0044 “Corabia – Turnu Măgurele” and Natural Reserve “Ostrovul Mare (Big Island)“.
- - RO SCI 0131 “Oltenița – Mostiștea – Chiciu” including Natural Reserve “Haralambie Island”, RO SPA 0021 “Ciocănești – Danube” with Natural Reserve “Ciocănești Island”, RO SPA 0055 “Gălățui Lake” and RO SPA 0105 “Mostiștea Valley”.

“Echilibru” NGO applied for obtaining the custody for the above mentioned protected areas and obtained the custody for 5 years. As Custody Body we elaborated the Sets of Rules and the Management Plans, we disseminated these documents for public debates and we made the review of its.

Now we are writing the Project documentation for application in order to obtain financial support from Operational Program – Sector Environment – Axis 4 “Nature protection” (financed from European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund and a national contribution) for following activities:

- construction of one Visitor Center for each area, situated near the way of communication, at the half of protected areas;
- construction of information points to each City hall in the proximity of the protected areas;
- construction of observatories for birds watcher;
- creation of natural barriers and buffer areas for protection of core areas for birds;
- acquisition of instruments (binoculars, GPS etc.) and vehicles (boats and cars) for monitoring of areas;
- information campaigns in all schools and high schools in the proximity of the protected areas;
- information campaigns for farmers, fishing companies and forestry companies;
- information campaigns for occasional tourists for fishing and barbeque activities.

We want also to access some other international financed program:

- Youth in action – for a common program with Faculties of Geography and Biology from Bucharest and Volunteers Activities Program;
- Cross Border Cooperation with similar structure from Bulgaria (RO SCI 0131 has on Bulgarian side of Danube Srebarna Lake - Natural Site of World Natural Heritage).
- and last but not the least, we want to develop some Projects with EUROGEO and EGEA.

