



**First National Workshop for the implementation of the
EU/CoE Joint Programme Emerald Network, Phase II
In Moldova
(DCI-ENV/2012/289-173)**

14-16 May 2013

Ministry of Environment of Moldova
9 Cosmonautilor Str., (7 floor), Chisinau, MD2005

Tuesday, 14 May 2013

In conformity with the proposed Agenda of the meeting, on Tuesday, 14 May 2013, a group of experts, namely Mr. Marc Roekaerts, international consultant, Ms. Angela Lozan, national Emerald team-leader and Mr. Ion Cotofana, local consultant, participated at the field trip visit in the candidate Emerald Site "Prutul de Jos", Vulcanesti district. Discussions and exchange of information were held with Mr. V.Girnet, the Head of the Ecological Inspectorate Agency Cahul and the Director of the Natural Reserve, the scientific personnel of the research section of the administration of the National Scientific Reserve. A meeting was equally held in the Administrative Office of the Scientific Reserve in the village Slobozia Mare, Vulcanesti district.

A field visit was organised on a boat along the lake Beleu, the nucleus zona of the scientific reserve. Protected Area Prutul de Jos is the synonym of the virginity of nature. It is located in the bottom of the Prut River. In its composition enter the lake Beleu, a network of ponds which form a unique ecosystem of national and international importance, and extend from to Cahul to Giurgiulesti. The protected Area Prutul de Jos was created to protect flora and fauna of the lake Beleu and of the floating meadows from nearby. The surface of the Reserve is 1691 hectares, about 1/3 is occupied by the Lake Beleu waters. The rest of the territory is represented by the marsh vegetation and the floating meadows. Lake Beleu is a relict of the Danube River and has over 5 to 6 thousand years. The length of the lake is 5 km, the width 2 km, the average depth is from 0.5 to 1.5 m and the maximum depth is 2.5 m. Water levels in Lake Beleu largely depends on the water level of the Danube and the Prut Rivers. The fauna is specific to aquatic ecosystems that serve as nesting place for birds. During the seasonal migrations this aquatic ecosystem is a resting and food place for migratory birds. More than 20 species of fish coexist in the lake. Lake Beleu serves as preferred medium for species of fish living in the lake, as well for migratory species of fish from the Danube to spawn. There are such species as pike perch, carp, and bream.

Experts visited also Giurgiulesti village, the extreme south geographical point and the bank of Danube river. The Giurgiulesti port should be considered as a source of potential anthropic impact over natural ecosystems and the Emerald sites.

The geographical boarder were observed along the Prut river between Sarata Galbena village and the Beleu lake. The flood lands represented by wetlands are partially involved in agricultural activities. The agriculture is not considered a very profitable and efficient activity in the adjacent to Prut river territories due to the high level of soil salinization.

Wednesday, 15 May 2013

(Conference hall of the Ministry of Environment, 9 Cosmonautilor Str., (7 floor), Chisinau, MD2005, Republic of Moldova).

Participants: a number of 30 participants registered to the workshop and represented the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, State Agency Moldosilva, FLEX ENPI

project, Research Institute of Ecology, Research Institute of Botany, Research Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences, State University of Moldova, Biosafety Office, Biodiversity Office, EU project on steppes restoration, NGO Biotica, Mass media, National Reserves Codru, Natural Reserve Prutul de Jos, Natural Reserve Padurea Domneasca, Natural Reserve Plaiul Fagului, State Ecological Inspection, Ecological agencies of Orhei, Comrat, Cahul, Straseni, Research Institute of Horticulture, Research Institute of Forestry, Emerald experts, students.

Opening and welcoming remarks were made by *Mr. Lazar Chirica*, Deputy Minister of Environment of Moldova. He focused to the importance of biodiversity conservation in Moldova, in accordance to the CBD and the Bern Convention. He mentioned that a Caravana of Biodiversity will be organized in May to celebrate the Global Biodiversity day and the 45 years anniversary of the central environmental authority of Moldova. He pointed out the considerable results achieved during the previous phase of the Emerald project and welcomed the continuation of the work on establishment of Emerald network. He also remarked the important and fruitful collaboration with the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of environmental protection and biodiversity.

Welcome words by the Council of Europe done by *Mr. Marc Roekaerts*, International expert. He welcomed participants of the seminar on behalf of the Council of Europe and the European Commission. He made a summary of the work during the previous stage of the regional project on Emerald network as the extension of Natura-2000 Network and in accordance with the Bern Convention program of work. He also made a general presentation of objectives and tasks for the next stage of Emerald programme.

Ms. Veronica Josu, Deputy head of the Division Natural Resources and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment made a presentation on the title: The Council of Europe recent decisions adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee on the Emerald network setting-up. She informed the participants of the latest decisions of the Standing committee of the Bern Convention, December 2012, as well as the main activities of the Ministry of Environment to be in compliance with the new developments of the convention.

Mr. Marc Roekaerts, International expert, Council of Europe made an overview on the Emerald Network Programme Phase I. Regional involvement and general information. Future development of the Emerald Network in the phase II. He pointed off the main outcomes of the phase I of the project made by the involved countries and Moldova. The table of assessment of countries information was presented with focus on lack or incomplete information on population and ecological information, when appropriate.

Ms. Angela Lozan, Emerald team leader, Biosafety Office, presented information related to the main outcomes of the Emerald Network Project phase II and the on-going activities on regulating the Emerald sites and public information. She mentioned that during the first phase of the project the list of species and habitats in Moldova according to the Bern convention was revised and completed. The sites or natural areas selected to be proposed as the candidate sites to the Emerald network. The ecological, populational and biogeographical information collected and presented in databases. GIS mapping provided. The main objectives and tasks for the next phase of the project were outlined.

Presentations by National team members: *Mr. Ion Cotofana* presented an overview on Proposed Emerald Sites for Moldova. Further development of the sites network. GIS Site boundaries. Reference Database. Status of the 2011 data base. GIS distribution data on Species and Habitats

Mr. Gheorghe Postolache presented the information concerning the proposed list of species to be added to the Bern Convention. Status of protection of proposed species. Proposed Emerald Sites: Further development of the sites network, GIS Site boundaries.



Mr. Marc Roekaerts, International expert, Council of Europe, presented the synthesis of Reference Database, specifically referred to the status of the 2011 data base and questions and further development. A special attention was done to Moldovas data delivered regarding the populational, ecological and biogeographical information.

In his following presentation *Mr. Marc Roekaerts* made an assessment of Emerald GIS distribution data for species and habitats. He mentioned some questions to be clarified by Moldovan experts that referred to the boundary of habitats in the candidate Emerald sites.

During the Questions and answers session participants brought their comments and questions.

An overview on Interpretation manual for new version of Resolution 4 made by *Mr. Marc Roekaerts*. He explained the reporting approach for the countries of Eastern Europe to the Bern Convention, the new classification codes EUNIS, as well as biogeographic approach and habitats characterisation.

Mr. Marc Roekaerts also presented the agreed methodology on how species and habitats to be added to the Bern Convention. Discussion on the way forward according to the Emerald Calendar 2020. A detailed timetable and expected procedures from the Emerald countries to submit their proposal for additional species and habitats to be included in the Bern Convention were discussed. A series of Biogeographical conferences will be held to clarify the list of species and habitats proposed by countries in the region.

Thursday, 16 May 2013

(Office Biosafety, Mitropolit Dosoftei str. 156A, of 305)

A practical work with national experts and the staff of the Ministry of Environment on planning activities on Emerald Network in Moldova have been done related the revision and completion of information and database, extending of Emerald network, planning next steps. The task, quality of information, constrains and further developments as well as the deadlines were discussed.

Participants: *Mr. Marc Roekaerts*, *Angela Lozan*, *Ion Cotofana*, *Marcela Vatamaniuc*.