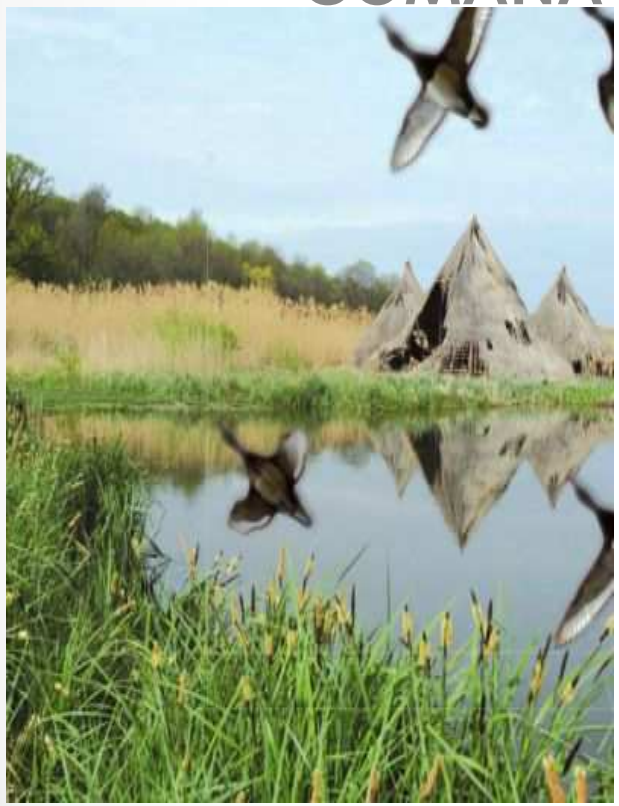
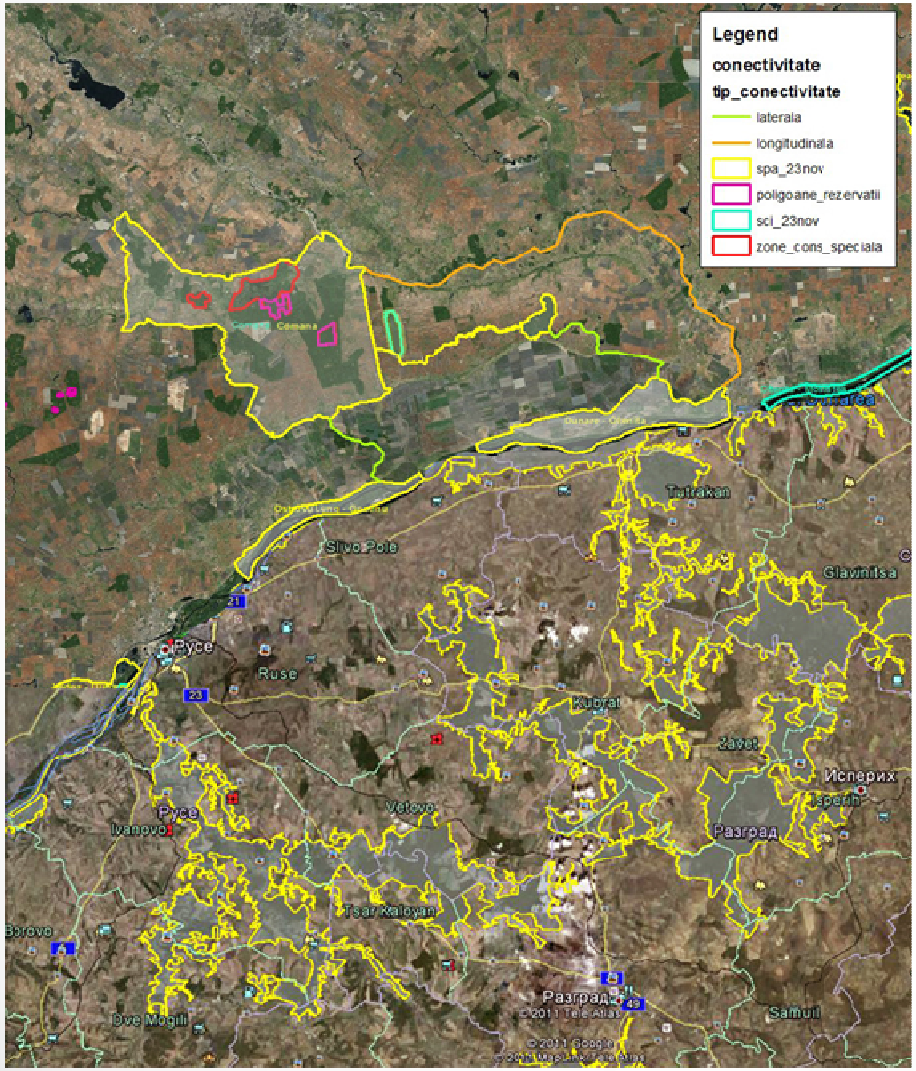
Bilateral and transborder cooperation in the field –

Ecological corridors and monitoring of processes

COMANA and LOMOVETE



PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR TO PROTECT SPECIES MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE PROTECTED AREAS



Cross-Border Ecological Corridor between

COMANA and LOMOVETE

CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CROSS-BORDER ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

- Includes a mosaic of habitats, representatives of important bio-geographical regions, plus the tradition of human intervention;
- Has a tremendous importance for the protection of biological diversity;
- Creates opportunities for research and demonstration of approaches towards sustainable development at the regional level;
- Is of appropriate size in order to secure the three main functions – conservation, development, logistic support;
- Maintains those functions through appropriate zoning

In addition, the following should also be provided for:

- Organizational structure for involvement of local people and stakeholders in the establishment and management of the cross-border ecological corridor;
- Mechanisms for managing human participation and activities on the territory of the cross-border ecological corridor, administrative bodies or institutions responsible for the management of those activities;
- Management Plan for the whole territory of the cross-border ecological corridor;
- Research, monitoring and training programs.

Step 1

BIODIVERSITY OF PROTECTED SITES WITHIN PROJECT TERRITORY IN BULGARIA AND ROMANIA, IN THE CONTEXT OF SPECIES MOVEMENT

- Summary analysis of biological diversity under the conditions of protected areas/sites in project region, in the context of species movement
- Identification of significant natural habitats, plant and animal species subject to pressure and impact from human activities
- Establishing contacts with local authorities and other stakeholders, providing information about the project goals

OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS (THREATS) FOR SPECIES MOVEMENT IN AND BETWEEN PROTECTED ZONES

Step 2

- Definition of real and potential threats to populations and species movement

- Measures for accomplishing a favorable status regarding species movement and their prioritization

SELECTION OF PRIORITY CONSERVATION NATURAL HABITATS THAT WOULD HELP SPECIES MOVEMENT

Step 3

- **Identification of habitats of conservational interest at the national and international level in order to secure species migration in and between protected areas**

- **Communication plan for building of partnership in planning and management – inter-institutional cooperation, municipal governments, private owners.**

- **Proposal for the establishment of an ecological corridor to protect species movement between the protected areas.**

MAJOR GOALS AND TASKS OF THE PRESENT MODEL MANAGEMENT

***Goal 1*: Use the cross-border ecological corridor for the protection of natural and cultural diversity**

Task 1.1: Improve and expand the European NATURA 2000 Network.

Task 1.2: Integrate the cross-border ecological corridor with the environment protection planning.

MAJOR GOALS AND TASKS OF THE PRESENT MODEL MANAGEMENT

***Goal 2*: Use the cross-border ecological corridor as a model of territorial planning and an approach to sustainable development**

Task 2.1: Guarantee the support and involvement of local population.

Task 2.2: Guarantee good harmony and inter-relation between PAs from both sides of the Danube River.

Task 2.3: Integrate the cross-border ecological corridor with regional planning.

MAJOR GOALS AND TASKS OF THE PRESENT MODEL MANAGEMENT

Goal 3: Use the cross-border ecological corridor for research, monitoring and education

Task 3.1: Improve knowledge about the connection between men and biodiversity.

Task 3.2: Improve the opportunities for monitoring.

Task 3.3: Improve education and training, public participation and responsibility.

Task 3.4: Raise the administrative capacity in relation to PA management.

STRUCTURE OF THE CROSS-BORDER ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR
ZONING AND FUNCTIONS OF ZONES

The concept of the cross-border ecological corridor is based on the structure of inter-related zones covering the whole territory of a designated protected territory. Each zone has its specific protection status and land use.

The model of a cross-border ecological corridor contains the following three elements:

A. Zone of strict protection

This is a protected territory designated by Law to preserve biological diversity, monitor ecosystems and control and limit use, e.g. eco-tourism, scientific research and environmental education.

B. Buffer zone

This zone usually surrounds or borders the protected territory. It serves to avoid improper human interference and is only used for controlled activities such as environmental education, limited development of tourism, agricultural and forestry actions.

C. Transitional zone

It includes all other activities and land uses on the territory, such as agricultural lands, settlements, industrial areas, etc. In that zone, the local people, management bodies, scientific sector, NGO-s and stakeholders work together for the management and resources use in a sustainable way.

PROPOSAL FOR SUB-ZONES ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CROSS-BORDER ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

In view of a more detailed planning, the main zones have been divided into sub-zones.

The categories of sub-zones have been numbered alphabetically in order to provide a system where every unit within the region can be identified by its code number.

This will secure the effective graphic presentation of future management plans.

ZONE A: Zone of strict protection	
SUB-ZONE	**DESCRIPTION**
A.a Wild legally protected areas	**Legally protected areas, offering conditions for ecologically pure, nature protecting activities**
A.b Other legally protected areas	**Legally protected areas such as maintained reserves, nature parks, protected sites and others offering conditions for the protection of biological diversity, scientific activities and limited eco-tourism**

ZONE B: Buffer zone	
SUB-ZONE	**DESCRIPTION**
B.a Public protected areas	Territories with a legal status non-compliant with the requirements for Zone A, surrounding, included or adjacent to Zone A such as natural sites, wetlands, etc.
B.b Private territories	Privately owned territories, which answer the requirements for protected areas, complete the unity of PAs and require a special status.
B.c Ecological corridors	Natural connections between eco-systems, which facilitate the functions of natural processes such as migration, reproduction of natural plantation and others such as rivers, bands of natural vegetation, etc.
B.d Restoration territories	Territories with disturbed biological balance as a result of forestry, agricultural and other human activities requiring the restoration of natural processes.

ZONE C: Transitional zone	
SUB-ZONE	**DESCRIPTION**
C.a Limited agricultural and forestry land use	Agricultural territories with natural vegetation and limited use such as nurseries for local species, controlled animal breeding, hunting and fishing, herbs gathering, eco-tourism, etc.
C.b Intensive agricultural and forestry land use	Agricultural lands with multi-functional use such as forestry, agriculture and others.
C.c Settlements and related territories and infrastructure	Towns, villages, institutional buildings, agricultural buildings, tourist complexes and installations

The final goal of the proposal for a cross-border ecological corridor will be to connect it to neighboring reserves and protected areas and to include it in the international networks in order to expand the opportunities

FOR *ACHIEVING THE NEW EC TARGET:*

***TO STOP THE LOSS OF SPECIES BY 2020 AND TO SECURE SUSTAINABLE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY*.**