







Natura 2000 Networking Programme on behalf of the European Commission Natura 2000 Networking Programme managed in partnership by project partners EUROPARC Federation, Eurosite and European Landowners Organization (ELO)

Natura 2000 in Romania- opportunities and obstacles Workshop Report

a. Introduction/ Background

The workshop took place on the 4th and 5th of September 2007 in Bran (Romania).

The conference involved Question and Answer sessions (after each presentation and also at the end of all presentations), followed by two field visits. The first field visit took place in Piatra Craiului National Park in the afternoon of the 4th September and the second took place in Bucegi National Park on the 5th.

Target audience: different stakeholders working daily with environmental issues, especially foresters (the local co-organiser of this event was the Romanian Forest Owners Association), representatives of the Ministry of Environment, local authorities, representatives of Piatra and Bucegi National Parks, representatives of forestry enterprises, NGOs, farmers (e.g. PROPACT 2005) and scientists.

The scope of the stakeholder groups was various (18 participants) and included the following:

- Foresters (Romanian Forest Owners Association),
- Farmers (PROPACT 2005),
- Landowners (ELO, Romanian Forest Owners Association),
- Hunters (Romanian Forest Owners Association),
- Scientists (representatives of National Parks, Faculty of Forestry in Brasov)
- Site Managers (ELO, Romanian Forest Owners Association, representatives of National Parks)
- National and local authorities (Ministry of Environment, local municipalities)
- International organisations (EOMF)
- Private sector (Holzindustrie Schweinghofer)

Actual attendees - see the list of participants in annex 1

b. Purpose of Workshop & Expected Outcomes

Environmental issues are increasingly present in the daily life of landowners and sites managers. The challenges are numerous, especially in such countries as Romania, where the various sectors, including the private sector, have to face and adapt to the *acquis communautaire*. Moreover it's vital to anticipate and prepare the adequate answers to new demands such as the bio-energy issues. Furthermore, there is a need to better understand and communicate the issues linked to Natura 2000 regulations and requirements, such as the question of human activities on protected areas.

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Aim & Objectives of the workshop for the host

Taking into account that Romania is in the so-called "designation phase" concerning the Natura 2000 sites, it's extremely important to communicate with the people in the field and to create a new platform to exchange best practices and knowledge. The aims were to explain how owners and land managers can organise environmental and forestry issues, including the impact on economic, environmental and social aspects.

Specific issues such as:

- Viewpoints on the implementation of Natura 2000 the need to share good examples and best practices:
- Natura 2000 Networking Programme added value:
- Natura 2000 in Romania development and future plans;
- Natura 2000 and the economic activities- the landowners point of view;
- Natura 2000 and the cooperation between stakeholders;
- EUROFORENET- an example of financing opportunities under LIFE+;
- Local transcription of the Natura 2000 the economic and tourist activities;
- Focus on the local conservation objectives: some examples from the field.

were addressed during the workshop.

c. Results - key points arising during the workshop

The key points were:

- Improve the communication of the requirements of Natura 2000;
- Anticipate the future national regulations linked to the implementation of Natura 2000, including discussions with various stakeholders (not always taken into account by different national authorities in the process of preparation);
- Create new platforms to exchange experiences and best practices on national, regional and European levels.

d. Conclusions and further action

- Need to explain best practices, examine the problems in the field, special trainings to avoid myths and prepare the stakeholders for the so-called "implementation" phase of Natura 2000;
- Support and include various stakeholders, including representatives of landowners and land managers, into this process.

e. Contact details of workshop host

ASOCIATIA PROPRIETARILOR DE PADURI DIN ROMANIA ROMANIAN FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION Mr Mihai IONESCU (Chairman) Str. Crisan nr.7A, bl.2, ap.7 RO-500040 Brasov

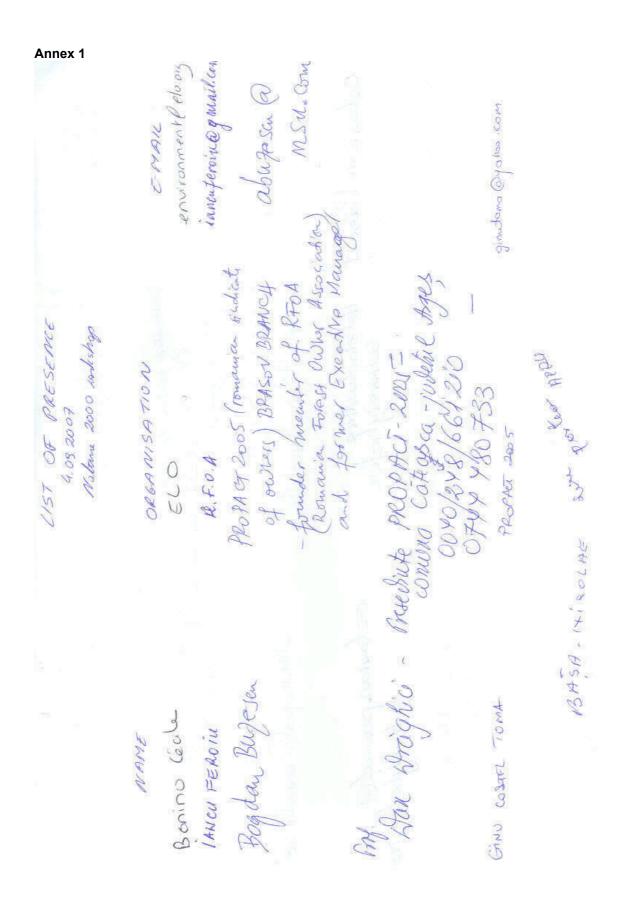
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f. Contact details of workshop participants - see annex 1

g. Relevant background papers

- 1. PowerPoint presentations
- 2 Natura 2000 Networking Programme documentation (leaflets, future workshops, <u>www.natura.org</u>, etc)

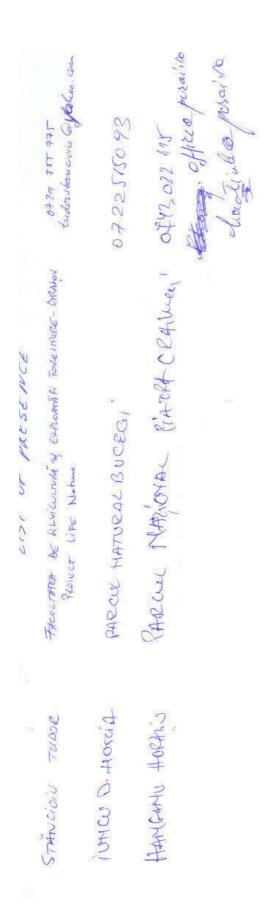
The workshop will be carbon compensated.



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