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**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

**Conserving Emerald Sites in the Republic of Moldova: An Awareness-Raising  
Event on Management Plans and Conservation Measures**

**Summary record**

**21 July 2023 (10:00 – 16:00, Chisinau time)**

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## *Summary of the presentations and discussions*

An awareness-raising event was organized as a part of the EU4Environment Program sub-component 4.1, which is led by the World Bank and aims to support the protection of biodiversity and natural ecosystems, particularly advancing the establishment and management of the Emerald Network in the Eastern Partner countries. The objectives of the awareness-raising event were to:

- Consult the methodology for developing the unified management plans that provide clear and specific conservation objectives to promote the effective replication of conservation efforts nationwide.
- Address conservation measures, roles, responsibilities, and current needs using the Codrii Emerald site as a case study.
- Solicit feedback from stakeholders on improving legal and institutional aspects related to the Emerald Network Management in Moldova.

The event started with opening remarks by Ms. Veronica Josu, a consultant in the biodiversity division, of the Ministry of Environment. Ms. Josu provided an overview of the current situation and updates regarding the Emerald Network in the Republic of Moldova. She also discussed the main milestones and achievements regarding policy and institutional aspects, including the planned establishment of a dedicated Agency for the management of Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment. Additionally, she highlighted the importance of legal framework improvement, institutional capacities, and conservation measures.

The second speaker was Mr. Aurel Lozan, country activity coordinator of the World Bank. He emphasized the significance of protecting species for the preservation of ecosystems. He also addressed the importance of proper management and conservation of protected areas, including the involvement of local authorities.

The host of the event, Natural Reservation "Codrii," delivered a welcoming speech and highlighted the main challenges currently existing in the Protected Area. These challenges include species assessment and research, as well as the fact that some species no longer persist on the Emerald site within the Reservation.

All speakers emphasized the importance of Emerald sites for biodiversity conservation. The meeting aimed to explore strategies for their effective management and preservation.

One of the highly anticipated presentations was on the methodology for developing unified management plans. The environmental expert, Mr. Ion Marin, highlighted that most of the Protected Area's administration, including research institutions, expressed the need for a methodology that would guide the developers of the management plans in elaborating unique formats. The methodology included each

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component necessary for the management plans, along with details of why such components are necessary and what information should be described.

During the presentation, the aspect of mapping and zoning of the Emerald sites, Protected Areas, etc., was discussed to facilitate management, information, economic, and agricultural activities. The expert emphasized the need to include information on the species existing on the Emerald sites to develop proper conservation measures for them.

The participants provided a set of recommendations and debated some of the methodological provisions. It was agreed that the document would be shared with participants after the event for better consultation.

During the presentation by Mrs. Victoria Covali and Mr. Theodor Glavan, a discussion and set of questions arose. The following are some of the key points discussed:

**Emerald Sites Overview:** It was highlighted that there are currently 61 approved Emerald Sites in the Republic of Moldova. The participants emphasized the need to elaborate management plans and create institutions to oversee the conservation efforts for these sites. Additionally, it was mentioned that when the assessment of the Emerald sites is made, it will be decided if one management plan can be made for multiple sites, for example, if they have the same habitat/species.

**Partnership and Collaboration:** Mr. Lozan stressed the importance of protecting species for the preservation of ecosystems. He mentioned ongoing projects in collaboration with the Netherlands, Austria, and Ukraine, which can provide additional funding opportunities for biodiversity protection.

**Presentation of the Draft Management Plan for Emerald Sites:** The presentation highlighted the key factors that should be considered while formulating the management plans, including socio-economic factors, population numbers, activities within the area (economic, touristic, and recreational), potential threats, objectives, and activity plans.

**Discussion on Site Borders and Administration:** There was a debate on how to identify the borders of the Emerald Sites and determine the responsible administrators.

Opinion 1: Some suggested that "Codrii Moldovei" should be the administrator.

Opinion 2: Others proposed that the "Agency for Protected Areas" should be responsible for administration.

**Terminology and Invasive Species:** The audience discussed the terminology used to describe invasive species. To ensure clarity, it was suggested that the language used in laws and regulations should be accessible to all, including local public authorities.

**Unified Informational System and Monitoring:** The need for a unified informational system and a plan for monitoring the Emerald Sites was emphasized. Government approval for such a plan was deemed necessary to facilitate effective conservation efforts.

**Conservation Measures and Silvicultural Implications:** Participants agreed that conservation measures should focus on preserving habitats rather than individual species directly. They highlighted the

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importance of accounting for environmental changes and implementing mechanisms for eco-systemic compensations. Controlled activities like fishing, hunting, and tourism were also discussed to strike a balance between conservation and human needs.

**Wildlife Population Monitoring:** The need to learn from Romania's experience in site administration was highlighted.

**Digitalization of Information and Communication:** Participants discussed the challenges of digitalizing information and effectively informing the population. These issues will be addressed in upcoming reforms, which aim to align Moldovan laws and practices with EU standards.

**Emerald Zones and Protected Areas:** There was a discussion on whether Emerald Zones are considered scientific or protected areas. Participants suggested simplifying the divisions between different types of zones to avoid unnecessary complexity.

## Conclusion:

The event concluded with a collective understanding of the importance of conserving Emerald Sites in the Republic of Moldova. The participants recognized the need for effective management plans, public awareness, and collaboration among various stakeholders to safeguard these valuable ecosystems and their species.

The representative of the Ministry of Environment highlighted the importance and high quality of the documents submitted by the project, specifically the Road Map, which will serve as a guiding tool at the national level for advancing the Emerald Network in the Republic of Moldova through proper management, conservation measures, legal modification, institutional capacities, and training capacities.

The participants expressed their interest in participating in future events organized as part of the project to gain experience and share expertise related to the Emerald sites, species, habitats, and ecosystems.

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## AGENDA

Moderator of the event: Tatiana ECHIM, Stakeholder Engagement Expert

Time	Item
10.00 -10.20	<p><b>Opening statements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs. Veronica JOSU, Head of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Division, Ministry of Environment of Moldova</li> <li>- Mr. Aurel LOZAN, EU4Environment Country Activity Coordinator, World Bank</li> <li>- Mrs. Natalia JARDAN, Deputy Director “Codrii” Natural Reserve</li> </ul>
10.20-10.40	<p><b>Presentation of the methodology for the development of unified Management Plans for Emerald sites in the Republic of Moldova</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Ion MARIN, Environmental Expert, EcoContact</li> </ul>
10.40 -11.00	<p>Q&amp;A session on Emerald Management Plans structure and contents. Feedback from the pool of experts/stakeholders</p>
11.00-12.30	<p><b>Presentations on establishing conservation measures for Emerald Sites in the Republic of Moldova: flora, fauna, and habitat</b></p> <p>Moderated by: Mr. Aurel Lozan, EU4Environment Country Activity Coordinator, World Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Gheorghe Manic: <i>Inventory and updating of species protected by the Bern Convention within “Codrii” Natural Reserve, an Emerald site</i></li> <li>- Mrs. Victoria Covali: <i>Types of habitats in Codrii Emerald site</i></li> <li>- Mr. Theodor Glavan: <i>Conservation measures for flora and fauna in Codrii Emerald site, results of the expedition in sight</i></li> </ul>
12.30-13.00	<p><b>Follow-up and next steps</b></p> <p>This session will feature a discussion on the following aspects, with the participation of the expert team involved in the assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalization of the methodology for the development of Emerald Management Plans</li> <li>- Elaboration of the Management Plans</li> <li>- Other related issues that require further consideration.</li> </ul>
13.00 -14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	<p>Codrii Emerald site visit Discussion of the current challenges and needs in terms of Management Plans and conservation measures for the Codrii Emerald site</p>

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## List of participants

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No	Name, Surname	Institution, Function
1	Vasile BIRSAN	Consultant, Ministry of Environment
2	Corina DIMA	Intern, National Environmental Center
3	Tatiana GUMENE	PR and Communication, PA EcoContact
4	Liliana JOSAN	Project Manager, SE Biotica
5	Veronica JOSU	Main consultant, Ministry of Environment
6	Victoria COVALI	Project Assistant, Public Institution Office for the Management of the Environmental Projects (ONIPM)
7	Angela LOZAN	Biodiversity Expert (INIPM)
8	Theodor GLAVAN - CRANGHEL	Expert Fauna, ornithologist
9	Andrei ISAC	National Coordinator, EU4Environment in Moldova
10	Aurel LOZAN	Country Action Coordinator, WB
11	Valeriu CAMENSCHI	Prutul de Jos Protected Area
12	Polina CASSIR	Scientific Researcher, Prutul de Jos Protected Area
13	Elena TOFAN-DOROFEEV	Scientific research, Gradina Botanica
14	Olga IONIȚĂ	Scientific research, Gradina Botanica
15	Viorica PALADI	Chief of Scientific section Prutul de Jos Protected Area
16	Alexandru JAMAN	Chief of Direction, Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
17	Martius CAT	Chief of Direction, Environmental Agency
18	Daniela CIOBANICA	Main specialist, Environmental Agency
19	Ion BOTNARIUC	Chief of direction, Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
20	Catalin CUJBA	Inspector, Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
21	Dumitru BULAT	Chief of Lab, Zoology Institute
22	Victor STRATULAT	Intern, EU High-Level Adviser
23	Dorin CAZACU	Intern, EU High-Level Adviser
24	Natalia JARDAN	Vice-Director, Natural Reserve Codrii
25	Nicolae ARNAUT	Director, ONIPM
26	Natalia GURANDA	Executive Director, EcoContact
27	Gheorghe MANIC	Director, Natural Reserve Codrii
28	Petru ROTARU	Chief of direction, Moldsilva Agency

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