

## Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova

<b>Description:</b>	The Protected Area System (PAS) of Moldova is not uniformly distributed in the landscape and there are substantial gaps, particularly in terms of steppe habitats, that need to be addressed to ensure the adequate representation of the main types of ecosystems. Protected areas are also highly fragmented and are not achieving the conservation objectives for landscape-scale ecological processes. The 4 years project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) aims to improve the representativity and coverage of the Protected Area System in Moldova and to build the capacity of Protected Area institutions to more effectively establish and administer a representative system of protected areas (PAs). In the Orhei district the establishment of the first National Park in Moldova will be piloted.
<b>Dates of implementation:</b>	June 2009 – May 2013
<b>Objectives pursued:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an enabling framework for the expansion of the PAS to include under-represented ecosystems;</li> <li>• Improve representativity and coverage of the PAS;</li> <li>• Strengthen capacity to effectively manage a more representative PAS.</li> </ul>
<b>Benefits expected:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protected areas evaluated, boundaries reviewed and defined, mapped in GIS (Geographical Information System) format and registered at the relevant territorial cadastral office;</li> <li>• The Strategy and Action Plan for rationalization, consolidation and expansion of the Protected Area system developed;</li> <li>• First National Park in Moldova established (including management and financial plan);</li> <li>• All protected areas in the PAS are delegated to the appropriate government protected area agency/ies.</li> <li>• Operational guidelines for protected areas developed.</li> <li>• Operational capacity of the institutions responsible for protected area management strengthened.</li> <li>• Greater awareness among general public about benefits of biodiversity conservation and heritage features.</li> </ul>
<b>Public awareness:</b>	A series of public education and awareness campaigns are planned upon piloting the first National Park in Orhei aimed at showcasing the values and benefits of the conservation of the areas biodiversity and heritage features. These will include talks, presentations, exhibits, clean-up programs and guided day walks in Orhei local communities and primary and secondary schools. Also experiential learning programs will be facilitated in natural areas surrounding Orhei (camping, tree-planting, removing invasive plants, testing organic agricultural technologies, hiking, etc).
<b>Budget:</b>	The total budget is \$1,985,670, of which the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided \$950,000 and \$1,035,670 the in-kind contribution of the Government.
<b>Partners:</b>	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Forest Agency "Moldsilva", Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Local Authorities, Ministry of Culture and Tourism.
<b>Noteworthy:</b>	The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has a key role in management of the PAS of Moldova. The success of this very important project for the country will depend on the sound policies and programmes promoted by the Ministry in management and financing of protected areas. Ultimately, benefits of this project are to be shared by the Government and civil society.

**Contact:**

Iulian Gisca, Project Manager

Address: 9, Cosmonautilor str, of. 707 Chisinau, Moldova

Tel.: (373 22) 24 20 22

E-mail: [iulian.gisca@undp.org](mailto:iulian.gisca@undp.org)

<http://www.undp.md>