

Moldova's experience with positive incentive measures

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The Republic of Moldova is a small, land-locked country situated between Ukraine and Romania. Covering an area of 33,843 square kilometers Moldova is slightly larger than the State of Maryland and contains forest, steppe, and forest/steppe landscapes.

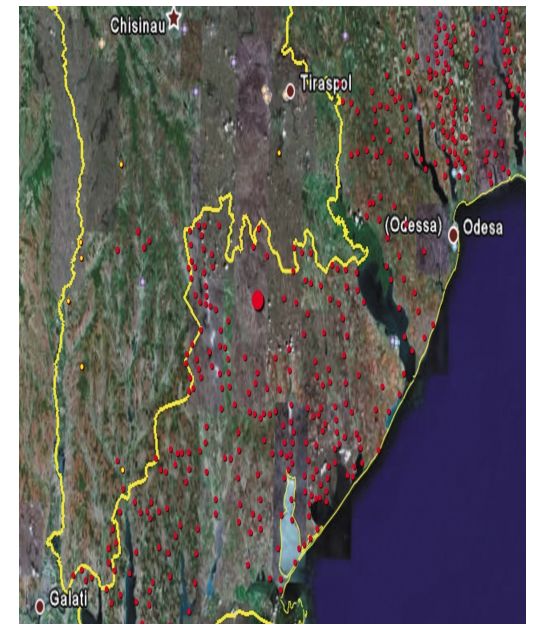
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Today, agricultural activities cover 75% of the landscape and farmers produce world-famous wines along with cereal grains, corn, fruits, vegetables, nuts and other products. The rich Chernozem soils, good climate, and adequate water resources contribute to the rich agricultural tradition of Moldova.

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Strategically located in southeastern Europe, Moldova plays an important role in maintaining regional biodiversity. It lies at the intersection of three bio-geographic zones:

- 1) Central-European, oak forests
- 2) Euro-Asiatic, semi-arid steppe; and
- 3) Mediterranean, Black Sea



Political incentives

Republic of Moldova acknowledge the importance of adopting economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity. Moldova have a few positive measures adopted. With some imperfections in their use, they are important part of the environmental policy in the economic field.

Political incentives

These measures cover a large field of instruments like political, social and monetary incentives (laws, education, research, governance, subsidies, tax incentives etc.).

Political incentives

The National Strategy and Action Plan in Biological Diversity Conservation provide the integration of local potential and promotion of politics in the field of biodiversity. Local Action Plans in the field of environmental protection are elaborated in every district (rayon) of the Republic of Moldova. In the major part this documents contain chapters on biodiversity conservation. But these plans are less implemented because of lack of financial sources.

Political incentives

Other documents having as subject the consolidation of local potential are the following:

- **The Strategy for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction (2004 - 2006) (2004);**
- **National Action Plan in the field of human rights for 2004-2008 (2003);**
- **Strategy for sustainable development of tourism in the Republic of Moldova in period of 2003 -2015 (2003);**
- **Program of activity of the Government for the years 2001-2005 “Renaissance of economy - renaissance of the country ” (2001) etc**

Political incentives

The state policy reflected in some documents (conceptions, strategies, action plans) stipulates this kind of measures. For example, in NSAPBDC at the compartment III. is stipulated: encouraging the farmers to conserve the biodiversity components (rare species habitats, reproduction sites, migration routes etc.) by offering respective incentives. .

Political incentives

Some legislative acts in the field of silviculture (Forest Code and Law on Improving the Degraded Lands Through Afforestation) offer stimulation for private forests creation, but economical mechanisms for stimulating the population to this kind of activities are not yet elaborated.

Political incentives

- *Law on environment protection* stipulates: the use of ecological fund resources (national, local) for staff remuneration - regardless of departmental provenience - that brought a real contribution to environment protection. The amounts for remuneration will not exceed 1% from National Ecological Fund, and 5% from Local Ecological Funds.

Political incentives

- *Law on Vegetal Kingdom* has special articles: economic mechanism and economic stimulation:
- (1) economic stimulation of rational using, restore and preserve of objects of vegetal kingdom aims to increase interest and responsibility of owners and beneficiaries of land for their conservation and rational development.

Political incentives

- (2) economic stimulation of rational using, restore and preserve of objects of vegetal kingdom provides:
 - a) stimulating activities on rational use development programs, the restoration and preservation of plants at the expense allowances provided in the state budget, local budgets, special funds and other sources of legal provenance;

Political incentives

- b) field of instruments to holders of land territories for improve the activities in protection of biodiversity in this;
- c) promotion of material incentives for individuals and legal entities to take effective measures to guard and protect the plants that have found violations of the relevant legislation and ensured the collection of fines and compensation for material damage caused to objects of the vegetal kingdom.

CASE STUDY: Regional experience in protection of steppe ecosystems

The Project “Sustainable Integrated Land Use of Eurasian Steppe” is implemented in the territories of steppe ecosystems of the three countries – Ukraine, Russian Federation and Moldova/

The Project is operating since December 2007 and will be elongated till the end of 2009.

CASE STUDY: Regional experience in protection of steppe ecosystems

Main project task is to test in practice and implement such mechanisms of steppe area management, which would facilitate the development of rural areas on one hand and conservation of steppe ecosystem areas on the other hand.

CASE STUDY: Regional experience in protection of steppe ecosystems

- Promotion among the farmers and agricultural structures of sustainable, environmentally sound land use of steppe areas for the conservation of steppe biodiversity;
- Restoration of abandoned and degraded steppe territories; increase of steppe grasslands productivity;

CASE STUDY: Regional experience in protection of steppe ecosystems

- Development and implementation of market mechanisms, which aim at conservation and restoration of steppe, and also agriculture development;
- Lobbying and promotion of the issues of sustainable steppe land use management at legislative level.

CASE STUDY: Regional experience in protection of steppe ecosystems

The objective of ensuring of impartial regional development includes the prevention of environmental pollution and efficient use of natural resources in line with improvement of life quality. In this context measures related to clear division of tasks among local and central authorities shall be taken in order to strengthen the capacities of responsible public authorities as well for increase of public awareness regarding negative impact of some activities upon the quality of environment.

RESULTS AND OBSTACLES

Legislative framework in the Republic of Moldova has been developed and it ensures the realization of strategies and plans for the conservation of biological diversity, but requires improvements in order to be adjusted to the recent international acts, such as:

- **compensation procedure for natural persons and legal entities - victims of environmental pollution;**
- **increase responsibilities at all levels and increase the level of incentive mechanisms implementation for CBD;**
- **-improve normative regulations related to sustainable use of biological resources and the enforcement of adopted legislation;**