



## **Sectoral Integration of Biodiversity in Romania**

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## 1. Introduction

Romania reported<sup>1</sup> on sustainable use of genetic resources, promotion and implementation, measures against global warming, and ecological sustainable tourism.

## 2. Sustainable use of genetic resources

Romania has non-renewable resources (minerals, fossil fuels, ore ferrous and non-ferrous deposits, coal deposits, useful rocks) and renewable (water, air, soil, wild flora and fauna, including the non-exhausting ones – sun, wind, geothermal and wave energy). Between the components of the natural resources, there are strong links and interactions, so that any anthropic intervention on one of them inevitably affects the others too.

The natural raw material non-renewable resources are energy generation sources, especially made of fossil fuels, whose typical representatives are mainly hydrocarbons (petrol, natural gases).

Within the context of increasing population and consumption of natural resources, sustainable development is a pattern of development that targets a balance between the economic growth, the quality of life and the preservation of the environment in the medium and long run without increasing the consumption of natural resources beyond Earth' capacity to support.

Sustainable development aims to eliminate the disparities of access to resources both for the poor or marginalized communities and for the future generations trying to provide every nation with the opportunity to develop according to its social and cultural values while not denying this right to the future generations either.

The long-term approach means to consider the needs of the future generations and to elaborate equitable scenarios of development based on the limited natural resources of the planet.

The systemic thinking appeals to understanding the complex interactions between planet subsystems, of the propagation effects between local and global and of the multiple interdependencies between the environment, economy and society.

To understand the manner in which the strategic priorities for sustainable development in Romania might be ranked we gathered several SWOT analyses in which also contain quantitative data on the current situation of the analysed sector (environment, or the sector influencing the environment):

**Table 1 SWOT analysis of the main environmental aspects in Romania**

STRONG POINTS	WEAK POINTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental legislation harmonised almost completely with EU legislation;</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low access of the population to centralised systems of water and salubrity compared to EU countries;</li></ul>

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<sup>1</sup> Romania (2009). Fourth National Report, Ministry of Environment, 17 July 2009, 86 pp.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies and plans of implementation of the relevant Directives for each sector of environment;</li> <li>• Existence of the basal institutional structures for environmental protection – to monitor compliance with community acquis, to implement the development programs for the integrated management of the water resources by hydrographic basins;</li> <li>• Experience in running programs financed by pre-adhesion funds (PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD) or from other international sources;</li> <li>• Technical assistance available to prepare a consistent portfolio of projects to be financed through POS (with PHARE, ISPA support and state budget);</li> <li>• The experience gathered by some 35 ISPA beneficiaries in large Romanian localities will be used to implement FSC projects in regions;</li> <li>• Delimitation of the agglomerations and of the areas for air management and air quality assessment;</li> <li>• Variety and wealth of biodiversity in Romania, important natural resources;</li> <li>• Undergoing delimitation of the protected areas;</li> <li>• <b>about 19% %</b> of Romania surface is declared as protected areas (including Natura 200 Network);</li> <li>• Significant tourist potential;</li> <li>• Increase the awareness of the decision-making factors to apply the policies and plans of actions for environmental protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low quality of the drinking water supplied to the population in many areas;</li> <li>• Rather low level of investments, after 1990, in all the sectors of the environment compared to the requirement of investments to comply to European standards;</li> <li>• Insufficient administrative capacity, particularly at the regional and local level, to implement the environmental legislation;</li> <li>• Existence of a large number of municipalities without performing water supplying companies;</li> <li>• Existence of a large number of sites with historical pollution due to past intensive economic activities;</li> <li>• Precarious infrastructure to collect, transport and remove wastes;</li> <li>• Poor awareness of the population and economic agents on proper waste management;</li> <li>• High proportion of wastes produced and stored, low level of selective waste collection, insufficient development of the waste recycling and utilisation market;</li> <li>• Poor awareness of the population and economic agents on the management of the protected areas;</li> <li>• Existence of gaps in the national network of protected areas; low financial and human resources for the management of protected areas and of the species and habitats of community interest;</li> <li>• Limited number of management plans for the protected areas;</li> <li>• Lack of intersectorial communication and of collaboration for the management of the natural resources and of the environment.</li> </ul>
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
<p>Use of EU finds as an important contribution to the improvement of the environment standards in Romania;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase of the standards of living and of the economic opportunities by providing quality public services, by remedying the polluted sites and by reducing the risks of natural disasters;</li> <li>• Decentralisation concerning the management of environment programs;</li> <li>• Apply the principle of partnership in the decision-making process for environmental protection;</li> <li>• Development of long-term investment plans under conditions of sustainable development;</li> <li>• Implementation of the legislation to introduce the best available technologies in environmental infrastructure, to increase the efficiency of resources and energy utilisation;</li> <li>• Reduce the discrepancies between regions and between villages and towns;</li> <li>• Improved performance of the operators of public services;</li> <li>• Opportunities for private investments and for trade;</li> <li>• Approach in the life cycle of the product within the context of integrated waste management;</li> <li>• Development of a viable recycling market for the wastes/raw materials resulting from waste processing;</li> <li>• Introduction of the renewable energy resources;</li> <li>• Development of public-private partnerships for the environment sector;</li> <li>• Development of the ecologic tourism.</li> </ul>	<p>Low capacity of the final beneficiaries/local authorities to elaborate project proposals;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation, political and financial difficulties determined by the process of regionalisation;</li> <li>• Non-compliance with the requirements of EU Directives for the water sector in the case of a low absorption of EU funds due to the complex process of project preparation and management and due to costly co-financing;</li> <li>• Difficulties in supporting the investment costs for the projects of environmental infrastructure, particularly by the small and average-size communities;</li> <li>• Increased pressure on biodiversity and air quality in correlation with the economic growth;</li> <li>• Inefficiency of short- and average-term investments to reduce the risks of Natural disasters that may cause important material and human damage;</li> <li>• Availability of land for the development of environmental infrastructure;</li> <li>• Inadequate utilisation of EU funds, without considering the possible effects on the environment and biodiversity, for instance for the development of infrastructure that leads to habitat fragmentation.</li> </ul>

Source: Ministry of the Environment and Water Management, POS Environment, April 2006

For the efficient usage of natural resources and biodiversity protection, Romania aims the reducing by 2010, of the actual rate regarding the losses of biological diversity through the development of clean production methods, inclusively the usage of eco-efficient materials.

### **3. Promotion and implementation**

Generally, there should be very clearly defined and delimited, what are the public goods and the private ones, because the access to these goods and services are guided after specific regulations, and themselves can lead to a more judicious land planning and resource management.

The establishing of some effective environmental objectives should allow that the advantages obtained from their achievement to compensate all losses in production and consumption of some goods and services less important than others.

On the other hand it is expected that the general wealth to reflect the quality environmental level reached having in view the technologies of the moment and the society preferences for all goods and services.

Impact: avoiding over exploitations on public lands and even private; increasing the interest for sustainable valorification of renewable resources from properties, accepting the conservation servitudes and supplying some rewarded public services.

For the moment there is no strategy for biosafety, especially related to the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO), although there is a regulation system for GMOs starting with 2000. At this stage Romania has the facilities to develop in cooperation with third parties GMOs with important economic value.

We do not have yet the capacity needed for development and taking full advantage of the products of modern biotechnology. Important human and institutional resources for biotechnology are mostly located in research-development academia and institutes: Institute of Biochemistry, Romanian Academy; Institute of Virology „Ștefan Nicolau” Bucharest, Institute of Biology, Romanian Academy, Institute of Genetics and the Faculty of Biology, Bucharest University; University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Timișoara, University „Babeș-Bolyai” Cluj Napoca and University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca.

These institutes are not supported in obtaining facilities anyway by the Government.

The State Institute for Testing and Registering Varieties has the capacity and ability to test and register varieties and hybrids of genetically modified plants. Romania has no accredited laboratories for GMOs analysis.

The research in the private sector is almost absent.

#### **4. Measures against global warming**

The Romania's climate is temperate-continental of the transitory type, being marked by eastern, oceanic, scandinavian-baltic, sub-mediterranean and pontic influences. The continental influences behave in some areas of the country, in well-differentiated climate tendencies.

Thus, in Banat and Oltenia, the Mediterranean tendency is present, featured by smooth winters and a richer pluviometrical regime (especially in autumn).

In Dobrogea, there is a pontic tendency, by rare and yet torrential rains.

The Northern part of the country (Maramureş and Bucovina) experiences the effects of the Scandinavian-Baltic tendency, having a cooler and more humid climate with nippy winters, and the West of the country is influenced by the oceanic climate, with rather moderate temperatures and richer precipitations.

The annual precipitations decrease in intensity from West to East: over 600 mm in the Western Plain and less than 500 mm in the Romanian Eastern Plain, under 450 mm in Dobrogea and approximately 350 mm on the seaside, while in the mountain areas they reach 1,000-1,500 mm.

The aim of evaluating the impact of the atmospheric pollutants over the environment is to identify and quantify the potential consequences it has on it. In order to better understand this impact, it is imposed to collect, change and disseminate the information on air quality.

The evaluation of the impact of atmospheric pollutants over the environment is done by:

- ❖ Estimating the emissions of pollutants by performing the inventory of emissions, measurements of the emissions and/or shaping of the dispersion of atmospheric pollutants;
- ❖ Monitoring the air quality in order to know the effects of these emissions over the population's health and ecosystems.
- ❖ Estimating the annual emissions of atmospheric pollutants represents the first step in establishing the impact of these pollutants over the environment.

The air quality in Romania has been monitored by hourly or daily measures in 51 measuring stations, out of which 23 are part of the automatic air quality monitoring network.

The National Air Quality Monitoring Network includes the following types of stations:

- Stations for evaluating the influence of traffic on the air quality;
- Stations for evaluating the influence of the industrial activities on the air quality;
- Stations for evaluating the influence of the "urban establishments" on the air quality;

The average concentrations of the pollutants monitored in the urban congestions, by types of stations, indicate a slightly favourable evolution of the air quality, except for the nitrogen oxides, which it can be explained by the increase in the traffic volume, the main source of pollution affecting the air quality in the monitored perimeters.

The climatic changes observed for a comparable time period represent the direct or indirect result of the human activities which determine the change of the global atmosphere composition which is added to the natural variability of the climate.

The greenhouse effect is due to the selective absorption by the molecules of all greenhouse gases of the thermal radiation emitted by Earth and its isotropic reemission into the atmospheric space, as well as towards the Earth.

The infrared radiation reemitted towards the Earth contributes to heating the low atmosphere and implicitly the planet.

By increasing the gas concentrations, the greenhouse effect is intensified, the energy transport and the humidity in the system is disturbed, a fact determining unbalances in the climatic system.

The phenomenon of global warming influences the physical systems as well as the biological ones.

Among the direct effects there may be mentioned: increase of the global average temperature with significant oscillations at a regional level, reduction of the glacial domes and implicitly the increase of the planetary ocean level, change in the hydro-logical cycle, augmentation of the arid areas, changes in the development of seasons, increase of the frequency and enhancement of the extreme meteorological phenomena, reduction of the biodiversity etc.

It is recommended the necessity of establishing policies and measures for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen protoxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride – regulated by the Kyoto Protocol), as when lacking these measures, the increase of the global temperature shall be by 0.2 degrees Celsius in each of the following three decades.

2010, needs the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions of at least 50% compared to the current level, by 2050. Estimation of the impact of climatic changes into the climate in Romania was accomplished by a study of the Romanian Academy where various General Circulation Models of the atmosphere were selected, which best reflect the conditions in our country. According to the results generated by these patterns, under the conditions of doubling the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere is expected for the decades to come, an increase of the average global temperature ranged between 2.4 and 7.4°C.

The forecasted temperature changes shall be manifested regionally and locally and shall influence the ecosystems, human establishments and the infrastructure.

The climatic changes shall affect all sectors of the economy, shall lead to changing the periods of vegetation and displacing the limiting lines between forests and grass lands.

The extreme meteorological events (storms, floods, droughts) will be more frequent, and the related risks and damages may become even more significant. The areas affected by droughts in Romania have extended in the past decades, the most exposed ones being in the South-East of the country, the entire country being affected by prolonged drought.

Along with the floods, the long periods of drought lead to significant economical losses in agriculture, transportations, energy supply, water management, health, as well as in the activity within the households.

In order to analyse the potential consequences on the agricultural productivity for the main crops in Romania, several agro-meteorological models were used.

Out of the country's surface, 26.7% represent the surface covered by forests; they are unevenly spread on the territory of the country (58.5% in the mountain area, 27.3% in the hilly area and 6.7% in the plain area).

The surface of the stock of wood is of 6 366 888 hectares, out of which 6 249 236 hectares represent forests, and 117 652 hectares is destined to forest culture, production and management. In the lower and hilly forested areas, a considerable drop is forecasted for the productivity of forests, after 2040, due to the increase of the temperatures and decrease of the precipitation volume.

The hydrological consequences of the increase in the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere are significant.

The industrial, commercial, residential and infrastructure sectors (including the supplies with power and water, the transportations and disposal of wastes) are vulnerable to the climatic changes, in various ways.

These sectors are directly affected by the change in the temperature and precipitation regime or indirectly by the general impact.

The sectors most vulnerable to the effects of the climatic changes are the constructions, transportations, oil and gas exploitations, tourism and industries found in the coastal areas. Other sectors potentially affected are food industry, wood processing, textile industry, biomass and renewable energy production. Romania has rectified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes (UNFCCC), by committing to accomplish its aim: "to stabilise the greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which would prevent the anthropic harmful perturbation of the climatic system, a level that must be reached in a sufficient time interval allowing the ecosystems to naturally adapt to climate changes, so that food production would not be threatened, and economical development would be performed in a durable manner". Romania has also ratified the Kyoto Protocol by Law no. 3/2001, assuming stronger

engagements than stabilising the greenhouse gas emissions, namely setting some clear measures, aims and periods for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions.

Thusly, the value of the engagement of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions for the period 2008–2012 is of 8% compared to the base year 1989, in order to harmonise with the measures of the European Union, of reducing the greenhouse gas effects by the same percentage.

During 2004-2008, a series of actions have been implemented, having as aim: the improvement of the national system for estimating the greenhouse gas effects and of the national inventory, implementing the scheme of commercialising the certificates of green-house gas emissions and elaborating the National Allocation Plan, functioning of the national register, elaborating the Guide on adaptation to the effects of the climatic changes, continuing the participation to the flexible mechanisms stipulated by the Kyoto Protocol, making the public aware with regards to the impact and adaptation to the climatic changes. By establishing the National System for estimating the level of anthropic green-house gas emissions resulted from sources or from restraint by distaining the carbon dioxide (SNEEGHG), the attributions and collaboration way have been set between the institutions involved in this process, as well as the data necessary to create the reports, the procedural stages concerning the estimation of the level of anthropic greenhouse gas emissions, reporting, processing, recording and storing the data comprised within the National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (NIGGE). The aim of SNEEGHG administrated by the National Agency for the Environmental Protection is to provide the NIGGE transparency, consistency, comparability, the full character and accuracy, as well as to comply with the stipulations and commitments Romania has assumed under the Kyoto Protocol and/or stipulated by the community legislation in force regarding the estimation of the level of anthropic greenhouse gas emissions resulted from sources or from restraint by distaining the carbon dioxide.

Romania's last NIGGE was transmitted in 2008 and contains the estimations of the levels of anthropic greenhouse gas emissions resulted from sources or from restraint by distaining the carbon dioxide for each year of the period between 1989 – 2006.

Based on these observations, there is thusly a probability that Romania shall comply with the commitments of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions during the first period of the engagement, 2008 – 2012, without additional measures of reducing the emissions. Some intensive energetic industries have reduced the activities and this has been reflected in the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions.

The sectors for which the levels of/restraint by distaining greenhouse gas emissions were estimated are: the energetic sector, industrial processing, use of solvents and other products, agriculture, land use, land-use change and forestry (abbreviated LULUCF), waste sector.

The country has a substantial capacity to implement the CBD, and has undertaken some assessments of capacity gaps. Between 2004 and 2005, with UNDP GEF support, a National Capacity Self-Assessment process was implemented. The NCSA Final Report contains capacity development Action Plans for each



UN convention and a Joint Action Plan for all three, specifying 25 priority objectives and actions, under the seven priority themes.

Among the CBD Thematic Assessment Recommendations, priority is given to addressing institutional fragmentation through streamlining and clearer definition of mandates and responsibilities, especially for protected areas; the need to improve inter-ministerial communication on biodiversity-related issues; and the need to adopt a more integrated approach to biodiversity and other environmental and sectoral issues.

However, these assessments have been largely cross-cutting in nature, looking into the common issues of institutional set up and policy and legislative frameworks.

Therefore there remains a need to undertake more detailed assessments of capacity needs in areas solely related to implementation of the CBD, which will be undertaken through this project.

Such specific issues as in-situ and ex-situ conservation will constitute one of the main focuses of the needs assessment exercise in the framework of this project.

## 5. Ecological sustainable tourism

To prevent the adverse environmental impact of tourism activities, the areas have been identified where the pressure of tourism at peak season can exceed the support capacity by increasing the amount of house waste water, road traffic and implicitly of the car emissions and noise levels.

**Table 2 Taxes paid by the tourism industry**

Taxes paid by the tourism industry			
Dues for renting, franchising or leasing	To build the infrastructure needed by tourism, the suppliers of tourist services must rent, franchise or lease land	<p>This is a certain and constant income from the suppliers of tourist services</p> <p>The supply of tourist services can be thus sized as to limit the impact of tourism</p>	<p>The tourists usually don't know these payment dues because they affect directly only the suppliers of tourist services</p> <p>The industry of tourism tends to invest in "cheaper" destinations, particularly in situations of deflation</p>
Taxes for damages to the environment (effects of tourism activities)	If the tourism activities are accountable for ecological damages such as water pollution, for instance, payments are demanded to amend the consequences (according to the principle the polluter pays)	<p>These taxes can diminish the environmental impact of tourism</p> <p>This design can be implemented in combination with fines</p> <p>The design shows clearly the principle "the polluter pays"</p>	<p>The actual payments are usually much too small to cover the costs of damages remediation</p> <p>The design doesn't bring a regular income</p> <p>The income is quite low</p> <p>The income increases with the damages</p>
Measures to compensate for the affected area (for	The tourism infrastructure often requires large land areas. To compensate for landscape destruction and for the	The area where such measures are enforced is protected from long-term	This is not a way to create regular additional incomes that can be used for conservation projects

effects due to constructions)	destruction of the ecological functions, “in kind” rewards may be asked, such as the establishment of new biotopes or the expansion of the already existing ones	<p>intensive utilisation</p> <p>This design is often used when construction licenses are granted</p> <p>The design reflects the principle “the polluter pays”</p>	In practice, the companies making investments try to avoid expenses for compensatory measures or keep them as low as possible
<b>Tariffs paid by tourists</b>			
Admission tickets	The tourists pay to enter a protected area	<p>This design brings regular and certain incomes for the protected areas and can be cashed by the management unit of each protected area</p> <p>These tariffs contribute to increasing tourist awareness on the value of nature and of the objectives and measures for nature preservation</p> <p>The cost of the admission tickets for attractive landscapes are accepted by tourists</p> <p>Implementation is quite easy even if, sometimes, there are legislative obstacles</p> <p>The admission tickets limit the tourist number, which reduces the environmental impact of tourism</p>	<p>The admission tickets can exclude some social groups, which are target groups for environmental education, such as the families with children. In such situations the price should be adapted accordingly.</p> <p>The incomes increase with the tourist number. The increase of tourist number tends to increase/stress the adverse environmental impact and to add to the management costs of the protected areas</p>
Additional tariffs for specific attractions	The management of a natural area requires additional payments to arrange or to keep specific attractions such as exhibitions or scenic spots (belvedere spots)	<p>Generally, substantial additional incomes are thus generated</p> <p>The acceptance is generally high</p> <p>Implementation is not hindered by major obstacles</p> <p>The tickets limit the tourist number and therefore alleviate the environmental impact of tourism</p>	<p>Often, the income hardly cover the cost for the required additional tourism infrastructure</p> <p>Particularly, the personnel costs are not covered</p>
Permits	The tourists pay to obtain a permit for special activities in protected areas, such as climbing or navigating	The design allows the tourists to use the protected area for sport or for other activities and is, therefore, accepted by tourists	If the permit price is too high, the tourists will choose sites outside the protected area. Therefore, payments are usually too low to support nature conservation projects

		<p>The demanded amounts limit the activities in the protected area and, implicitly, the general environmental impact</p> <p>The tourists become more aware on the potential damages they can cause</p>	<p>They are hardly accepted by conservationists due to their potential of environmental depreciation, for instance destruction of vegetation, disturbance of the fauna</p> <p>The implementation of such measures demands additional administrative effort, infrastructure and control mechanisms</p>
<b>Voluntary contributions</b>			
<p>Donations: Cash; Materials; Inheritance;</p>	<p>Many protected and natural areas depend on donations. Usually, they are not collected by the protected area, but rather in collaboration with associations or “groups of friends”.</p> <p>The donors can be contacted by mail, advertisements, donation boxes</p>	<p>Tourists may decide voluntarily whether to contribute or not to the conservation of a protected area</p> <p>Income level is only partially dependent on the tourist number in the area</p>	<p>The incomes depend on the economic situation of the donors and on the way they are contacted, for instance, the donation boxes gather little money</p> <p>Donations are seasonal, most coming on Christmas or on Easter</p> <p>Additional administrative infrastructure required</p>
Eco-sponsoring / Funds	<p>Cooperation between the tourism industry and the environmental organisations is mutually advantageous: for instance, the donations for nature conservation and improvement of tourism image</p>	<p>The social and ecological projects are often sponsored by companies</p> <p>Tourist business support the projects with regular amounts of money or with materials</p> <p>No problems with acceptance by tourists</p>	<p>The projects rely much on the sponsor and they fail if sponsoring ends</p> <p>On the other hand, such projects wouldn't have been possible without the support of sponsors</p> <p>The sponsors prefer to pay specific projects rather than general maintenance costs</p>

The Ministry of Environment is the body of the central public administration specialized and with responsibility for establishing, promoting and application of the Governmental strategy in the field of management of the water, forest and environmental protection.

At Ministry's orders, under authority or coordinate by the Ministry are the following entities:

- **Entities at Ministry of Environment's orders:**
  - ❖ *Public institutions financed by budget of the central state administration, with a legal identity:*
    - ❖ 42 Environmental Protection Agencies at County level, decentralized public duties;
    - ❖ Administration of the “Danube Delta” Biosphere Reserve.
  - ❖ *Entity for documentation and information, with a legal identity and extra-budgetary financed*

- **Entities under Ministry of Environment authority:**
  - National Company “Romanian Waters”;
  - National Company of Forests;
  - National Company “National Institute of Meteorology, Hidrology and Waters Management”.
- **Scientific research entities coordonate by the Ministry of Environment**, with a legal identity and extra-budgetary financed :
  - National Institute of Research-Development for Environmental Protection, Bucharest;
  - “Grigore Antipa” National Institute of Research-Development, Constanța;
  - “Danube Delta” National Institute of Research-Development, Tulcea.

Within the Ministry of Environment operating the Directorate of Nature Protection.

At local level this is represented by similar departments under the territorial Environmental Protection Agencies with functions regarding the activities of biological diversity conservation and sustainable use of its components.

This directorate have the following main prerogatives and responsibilities:

- coordinating the activity of nature conservation, elaborating the policies and the strategies for biological diversity conservation and sustainable use of its components;
- coordinating the management of the protected areas and natural monuments, by the territorial Environmental Protection Agencies;
- funding, elaborate and propose for enforcement or promotion, in cooperation with Romanian Academy, measures and normative acts for biological diversity conservation and for management of the National Network of Protected Areas;
- propose the normative acts projects for including in the National Network of other protected areas or natural monuments which justifies it, together with Romanian Academy and specialized institutes;
- participate at the approval of the ecological impact studies and assessments for the works of planning use, of the investments and of exploitation of some natural resources, in respect with the conservation of the natural habitats and species diversity;
- elaborate, publish, up-date and distribute the “Protected Areas and natural Monuments Catalogue” and “Red List of national endangered plants and animals species” together with the Romanian Academy;
- acting for applying the legal measures concerning the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity;
- propose and coordinate, technique and scientific, elaborate the research programs for knowledge and assessment the state of the natural habitats, wild species and other goods of the national natural heritage, financed by budget of the central state administration or other sources;
- funding and acting for developed the special projects on protection, conservation and rehabilitation/reconstruction of the natural habitats and species diversity;

- ensure and survey the enforcement of the provisions and recommendations stipulate in the international conventions and agreements in the nature conservation field;
- represent the technique and scientific secretariat for the international conventions and agreements in the nature conservation field.

In the field of the nature conservation, the Environmental Protection Agencies have the following main prerogatives and responsibilities:

- ❖ knowledge of the areas of the plant and animal species from the wild flora and fauna and enforcement the necessary measures for their protection and conservation within the County territory;
- ❖ periodical assessing, surveying and analyzed the state of the protected areas and natural monuments within the County territory;
- ❖ ensure, coordinate and survey enforcement of the natural monuments protected areas management plans;
- ❖ authorized, at the request of the natural and juridical persons, harvesting of the plants and animals from wild flora and fauna, according with the legal provisions and with the ability decided by the ministry;
- ❖ collaborate with the territorial authority responsible with the agriculture and forestry, and other local administration authorities for keep record of the deteriorated lands, as well as setting up the protection curtains, in concordance with the law on land fund;
- ❖ identify the affected aquatic and terrestrial areas, requested and analyzed the proposals for their ecological reconstruction and approved this projects;
- ❖ analyzed and approved point a view of biological diversity conservation, the studies elaborated aimed authorized the economic and social activities, within the County territory.