



# **REPORT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (AEWA) DURING THE PERIOD 2012-2013**

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## **Scientific research and monitoring**

- ❖ During the period 2012- 2013, scientific research and monitoring activities were done through implementing the projects co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund within the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013, priority axis 4-implementation of adequate management systems for nature's protection:
- ❖ *"The Management Plan for the Natura 2000 Siret Middle Meadow"*;
- ❖ *"Transfrontier conservation of Phalacrocorax pygmeus and Aythya nyroca in the key sites in Romania and Bulgaria"*;
- ❖ *" The Management Plan for the Natura 2000 site Blahnița – Mehedinți"*;
- ❖ *"Measures to improve the management of Natura 2000 sites in the Iron Gates Natural Park"*;

The projects were implemented by the administrator of the Iron Gates Natural Park and the custodians of the natural protected areas (the Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania, WWF Danube - Carpathian Romania, the

Association for Biological Diversity Conservation, the Ecotransylvania Association and the Echochoice Association).

**Activities:**

- ❖ Participation to the Common Bird Monitoring Program coordinated by the Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania
- ❖ Inventory and assessment of the current state of conservation of waterbirds species: *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Mergus albellus*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Egretta alba*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Aythya ferina*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Bucephala clangula*, in the natural protected areas ROSPA0071 Lower Meadow of Siret River, ROSPA0058 Stâncea – Costești Lake, ROSPA0049 The ponds of Ibănești - Bașeului – Podrigăi Valley, ROSPA0110 Acumulările Rogojești – Bucecea, ROSPA0011 Blahnița, ROSPA0026 - Baziaș - Iron Gates, ROSPA0027 Homoroadelor Hills, Olt River Basin important feeding and breeding areas for the migratory waterbirds species.
- ❖ Identification and location of the habitats types, mapping the sites;
- ❖ Elaborating a database and also the map with the distribution of waterbirds species during the migration;
- ❖ Elaborating the conservation measures for the waterbirds species;
- ❖ Elaborating the Management Plans of the special protected areas.

## **Education and awareness**

The International Day of Biodiversity, the World Wetlands Day, the World Environment Day, the World Migratory Bird Day were celebrated in all the counties.

### **Activities:**

- ❖ Educational activities, the seminar "*Wetlands and water management*";
- ❖ Birdwatching tours in the Special Protected Areas;
- ❖ Workshops to the Local Environment Protection Agencies involving NGOs and the experts from the Romanian Waters Management Authority;
- ❖ Flyers, posters, leaflets for public awareness regarding the importance of wetlands as habitats for migratory waterbirds were distributed;
- ❖ Press release, painting competitions, thematic presentations related to waterbirds and documentary "*Save the birds in Europe*" about the bird species of Community interest;
- ❖ During the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Eco Camp - Know Life, the wetland "Stânca Costești Lake" was promoted as one of the most important wintering area, for understanding the functioning of ecosystem, following by the identification of the effects of human activities on the environment;
- ❖ Publications, annual calendars, brochures, editing and disseminating a practical guide for public awareness;
- ❖ Organizing meetings with local authorities, informing the stakeholders and institutions;
- ❖ Exhibitions and visit to the Natural Science Museums.

### **Strengthening institutional capacity**

Training courses for the custodians and the administrators of the special protected areas for a better implementation of the Management Plans.

### **International cooperation**

In June 2013 an international workshop was organized to raise awareness, for discussing the conservation measures of waterbirds with the experts from Romania, UK, Germany, Hungary, Finland, Slovenia and Turkey.

### **Protection of migratory species, conservation measures**

At the national level, the Management Plans for the natural protected areas provide conservation measures for waterbirds species as well as for their habitats.

Eleven Ramsar sites were designated: Bistreț, Lake Calarași, Olt - Danube Confluence, Suhaia, Blahnița, Borcea Branch, Calafat-Ciuperceni-Danube, Canaralele de la Hârșova, Danube Islands Bugeac – Iortmac, Jiu-Danube Confluence, Old Danube - Măcin Branch with special importance for migratory waterbirds.

### **Administrative, institutional, legislative measures**

The Action Plans for the conservation of Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*) were elaborated by the Romanian Ornithological Society/BirdLife Romania and will be approved in September 2013.

### **Activities planned for next year**

- ✓ Conserve migratory waterbirds, giving special attention to the endangered species as well as to those with an unfavourable conservation status;
- ✓ Monitoring the special protected areas with high density of migratory waterbirds;
- ✓ Approval and the implementation of the Management Plans for the Special Protected Areas will contribute significantly to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the most efficient manner;
- ✓ Implementing the International Single Species Action Plans for the migratory waterbirds populations;
- ✓ International cooperation in monitoring the most vulnerable migratory waterbirds;
- ✓ Take coordinated measures for maintaining the migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status.