

**PROTECTED AREAS FOR HABITATS OR SPECIES
FROM CRISURI HYDROGRAPHICAL SPACE, WHERE IMPROVING GOOD
CONDITIONS FOR WATER IS AN IMPORTANT UNIT**

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Abstract

Protected areas are parts of the territory of each catchment area, which have been designated with special protection based on the requirements of the Community Regulations.

According to the Water Framework Directive (Annex IV), in the Crisuri area have been identified and mapped the following categories of protected areas:

- ❖ *protected areas for drinking water intakes;*
- ❖ *protected areas for economically important aquatic species;*
- ❖ *protected areas for habitats and species where maintaining or improving good water status is an important unit;*
- ❖ *sensitive and vulnerable areas;*

Keywords: protected areas, protected species, Natura 2000, Water Framework Directive.

INTRODUCTION

BRIEF HISTORY OF CONCERNS IN THE CONSERVATION OF PROTECTED AREAS

The nature conservation in Romania began in the nineteenth century. In 1902, Emil Racovita created the first institute in Cluj, spelunking in the world and Brothers Society Munteni, that aims to protect against the devastation of forests and mountains, which launched the idea of creating a natural park. The first publication of Nature Protection in Romania, by Alexandru Borza, appeared in 1924.

The first environmental law was promulgated on 7 July 1930 and the Ministry of Agriculture created a Commission for Nature Monuments, and in 1933 a Commission, whose task was the responsibility of regional nature conservation.

In 1935 was created the first National Park, Retezat Mountains, and in 1938 the first protected geological site at Detunatele basalt columns.

On 17 October 1950 adopted a new provision for the protection of nature supplemented by subsequent legislation in 1954, were created by those rules Monuments Commission for the Protection of Nature under the patronage of the Romanian Academy and the local administrations were designated protected natural areas for protection and popularization.

The first environmental law was passed in 1973 (Law 9) and in 1990 was created the Ministry of Environment that began later the Ministry of Water, Forests and Environmental Protection. This ministry has various departments and some of them for nature conservation. Over time, the ministry has changed regarding the name and organization.

The law that governing protected natural areas of national interest is Law no.

5/2000, concerning the approval of national planning. The legal framework is complemented by the following acts:

- ❖ Government Decision no. 230/2003 regarding the delimitation of the biosphere reserves, national parks and natural parks and setting up their administrations.
- ❖ Government Decision no. 2151/2004 establishing protected area regime for new areas.
- ❖ Government Decision no. 1581/2005 establishing protected area regime for new areas.
- ❖ Government Decision no. 1586/2006 on protected natural areas in the classification category of wetlands of international importance.
- ❖ Government Decision no. 1143/2007 concerning the establishment of new protected areas.

The next step is Romania's accession to the European Union and hence the adoption of the European Directives on the protection of natural habitats and different species. In this sense the most important is Directive 92/43/EEC for the conservation of natural habitats, wild fauna and flora and Directive 79/409/EEC for the conservation of wild birds.

These regulations have been transposed into national legislation by the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 57/2007 on the protected nature reserves, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, as amended and supplemented. Then, after a complex proposal, selection and validation have been designated Natura 2000 sites in our country.

By Order no. 1964/2007, establishing the protected area system of sites of Community importance, as part of the European Ecological Network Natura 2000, in Romania 273 sites have been designated to protect important natural habitats, and by Government Decision no. 1284/2007 for bird special protection areas as part of the European ecological network Natura 2000, were designated 108 sites very important for the protection of wild birds.

DESIGNATIONS OF PROTECTED AREAS WHICH IS IN CONNECTION WITH WATER FROM CRISURI HYDROGRAPHICAL AREA

In the Crisuri area, according to documents in force, has been identified 50 protected areas designed to protect habitats and species where maintaining or improving a good water status is an important factor. Of these, 29 are sites of Community importance (SCI), 7 are Birds Special Protection Areas (SPA), and 13 are natural reserves and a natural park.

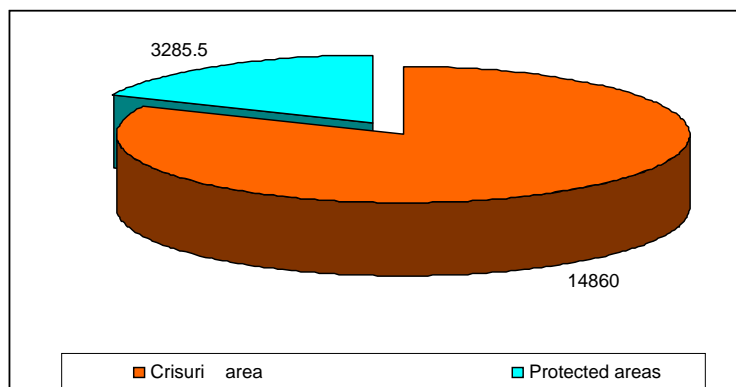


Fig.1 Crisuri area occupied by the areas for

habitats and species protection, where water is an important unit (square kilometers)

In figure 1 is present the distribution of space planning in Crisuri area, for the presence of legally protected natural areas. Thus, the total area of protected natural areas in the catchment area is 3285.5 square km, which is 22.1% and Crisuri total area is 14860 sq km.

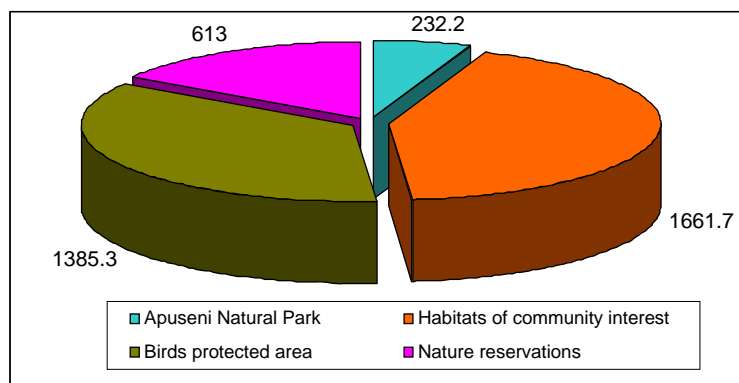


Fig. 2 Categories of areas designed to protect habitats and species where water is an important factor (square kilometers)

As we seen in figure 2, from the 3285.5 square kilometers protected area, the Apuseni Natural Park occupies 232 square kilometers, Bird Special Protection Areas occupying 1385 square kilometers, community sites 1661 square km and nature reservations occupy 6 square km. These categories areas often overlap, so the protected area is less than the total surface.

In 2005, the first register of protected areas contain only 14 protected areas for habitats or species with a total of 242 square kilometers, representing only 1.57% from the basin.

Areas intended to protect habitats and species where water is an important factor in the register of protected areas for the Crisuri basin are shown in figure 3.

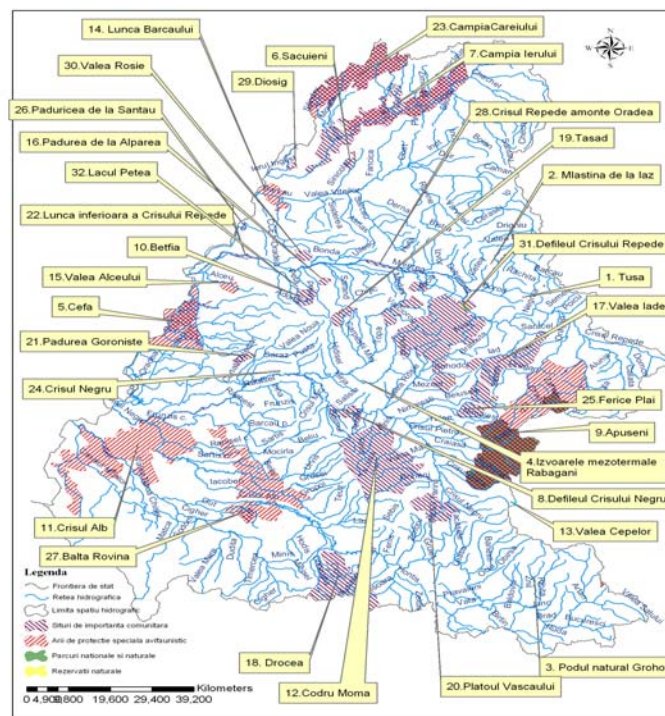


Fig. 3 Protected areas for habitats or species where water is an important unit

In developing this chapter, in the register of protected areas, there was a form of characterization for each protected area. Habitats and species protected area where water is an important factor to be considered spatial area represented by the union of protected natural areas designated by laws in force and may have different management categories overlapped.

Thus, the resulting 32 protected areas and their characterization files contain descriptions of geographical, administrative, river, biogeographically and ecological zones and meet reporting requirements by the European Commission, and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), under the Water Framework Directive.

In the catchment area Crisuri were identified under the Habitats Directive, 7 priority habitats and 17 priority species, which are presented in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1

Priority habitats from Crisuri area

1530*Ponto-Pannonian, Sarmatian grasslands and salt marshes
2340* Pannonian dunes
31A0* Transylvanian hot water covered by lotus
4070* Bushes with <i>Pinus mugo</i> and <i>Rhododendron myrtifolium</i>
40A0* Subcontinental Peri-Pannonian scrubs
6110 * Calcify or grassland communities of Alysso-Sedion
6210* Dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)
6230* <i>Nardus montane</i> grasslands on siliceous substrates, rich in species
6250* Pannonian grasslands on loess
6260* Pannonian and Western Pontic grasslands on sandy
7110* Active raised bogs
9180 * Forests of <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> on steep slopes, screes and ravines
91D0* Bogs with forest vegetation
91E0* Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
91E0* Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion alba</i>)
91H0* Pannonian forest vegetation with <i>Quercus pubescens</i>
91I0* Eurosyberian steppe vegetation with <i>Quercus</i> spp .

Table 2

Priority species from Crisuri area

<i>Callimorpha quatripunctaria</i>
<i>Ursus arctos</i>
<i>Austropotamobius torrentium</i>
<i>Canis lupus</i>
<i>Campanula serrata</i>
<i>Pelobates fuscus</i>
<i>Nymphalis vaualbum</i>

Some protected areas, particularly wetlands and aquatic habitats, are closely linked and directly dependent on groundwater bodies, and others, especially those in mountainous areas, are practically independent of groundwater bodies. From all 32 protected areas, 25 are related to groundwater bodies, that no body of underground water is not at risk.

Natural risk factors are related mainly to climate change (which in turn can be considered and anthropogenic) floods, long periods of drought, forest fires (are the most important factors that endanger the integrity of protected areas).

Anthropogenic risk factors are pressures due to settlements, industry, agriculture and water works. Another factor that often threatens the protected area status is uncontrolled exploitation of forests.

Among the protected areas of interest (SCI) have a total of 14 custodians, of the areas protected Areas (SPA) only 5 custodians, 5 are custodians of the natural reserve and natural park is the administrator. In October 2010 the management plans of these areas were not yet fully completed or approved.

CONCLUSIONS

Comparing the total area of protected natural areas with the situation in 2005, it is a noticeable increase from 24,200 ha to 328,550 ha due mainly to fulfill the obligations assumed by our country in the EU Accession Treaty, and the creation of Natura 2000. Natura 2000 network includes Special Protection Areas for Birds fauna, designated under the provisions of the Birds Directive and sites of Community importance designated under the Habitats Directive requirements.

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