

## What is Natura 2000?

The Natura 2000 Network is the principal instrument of European Union for nature conservation. A network of natural or semi-natural areas where both vulnerable plants and animal species and natural habitats must be protected represents it.

The purpose of Natura 2000 network is to protect the biodiversity of European continent and, consequently of Romania country and to promote economic activities friendly to biodiversity conservation. Finally, the Natura 2000 network will have the role of stopping the biodiversity decline by long time conservation of the most valuable and endangered species (plants and animals) and natural habitats of European interest. The main objective of the project is the identification, conservation and restoration both of the habitats to protect the wild flora and fauna and the connecting corridors between them.

It is anticipated that the Natura 2000 network will cover approximately 20 % of the European Union territory. In Romania, this network will be a part of the rural landscape, presently approximately 17% of the country area being included in Natura 2000 sites. The selection of a certain area and its inclusion in nature 2000 Network means the recognition of its importance at European level and should constitute a pride source for the native peoples. In the same time it could offer significant economic opportunities.

The Natura 2000 network relies on the European union Directives: “Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC” and “Birds Directive”, transposed in Romanian legislation in OUG no. 236/2000, approved and modified by 345/2006 Law.

### Advantages, opportunities, effects and obligations of Nature 2000 network creation

Designation of Natura 2000 network sites offers the possibility of a better development of our country regions (including the North – East Development Region), could assure the increasing of the natural traditional produces on intern and extern markets, could open opportunities for ecological tourism development, could attract special financing sources as the EU POS funds for a sustainable agriculture and silviculture according to the conservation objectives of the respective site. The projects promoting the traditional activities, favourable to a sustainable development in a Natura 2000 site, or in its proximity, will have an advantage before other projects.

The effects of this network creation are the preservation and conservation of certain natural habitats types and vegetal or animal species; depending on these conservation activities is intended to increase the potential of sustainable development in that area. In an Natura 2000 sit, the activities can continue if they are realized in a sustainable way and not affect the species and the habitats of great interest. The restrictions do not exist if the species existing in that site are not replaced with other species and will exist recommendations and support for:

- using the best agricultural practices;
- using practices friendly to the environment;
- developing of the ecological tourism.

Conservation of the species and natural habitats could be compatible to some human activities harmoniously administrated: tourism, hunting, forests exploitation etc., offering in the same time supplementary possibilities: recreative activities, selling of the natural produces etc.

In the North – East Development Region a series of Natura 2000 sites have already been proposed, having the mission to conserve the species and habitats types specified both in “Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC” and “Birds Directive”. Thus, only on the Iasi county territory a number of 27 sites have been proposed (7 – SPA type and 20 – SCI type). SPA represents sites of special avifaunistic protection proposed to preserve the birds species enumerated in “Birds Directive” and SCI represents the Community importance sites proposed for the habitats types and the species enumerated in “Habitats Directive” (**Table no. 1**).

**Table no. 1****SPA and SCI sites in Iasi county**

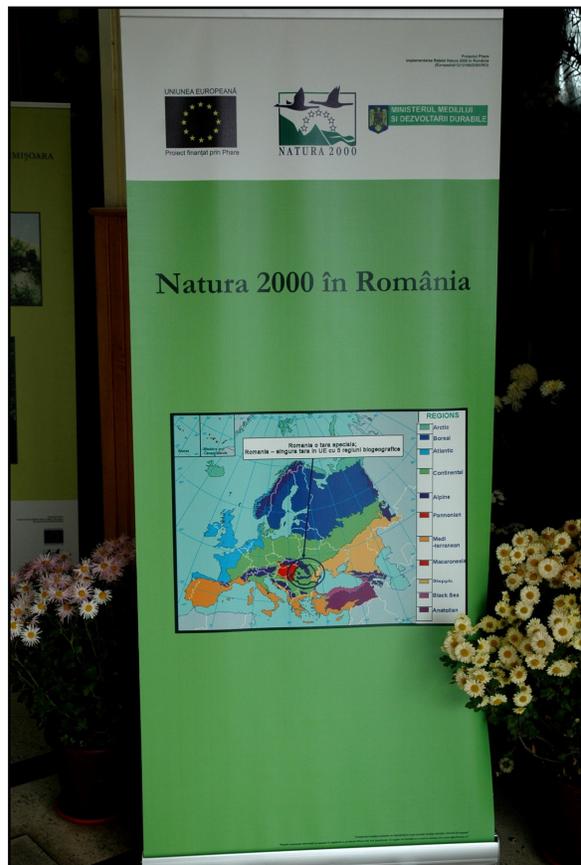
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of the proposed Natura 2000 site</b>	<b>Site type</b>
1.	Acumularile Belcesti	SPA
2.	Balta Balatau	SCI
3.	Elesteele Jijiei si Miletinului (Vladeni)	SPA
4.	Fanatele Barca	SCI
5.	Garla veche a baltii Teiva – Visina	SCI
6.	Lunca Siretului mijlociu	SPA
7.	Padurea Medeleni	SCI
8.	Padurea Barnova	SPA
9.	Padurea Barnova - Repedea	SCI
10.	Padurea Madarjac	SPA
11.	Padurea Miclesti	SPA
12.	Padurea Roscani – Trifesti	SCI
13.	Padurea si pajistile de la Marzesti	SCI
14.	Padurea Uricani	SCI
15.	Raul Prut	SCI
16.	Lunca Prutului Mijlociu – Iasi	SPA
17.	Rezervatia naturala “Valea lui David”	SCI
18.	Saraturile din Valea Ilenei	SCI
19.	Saraturile Jijia Inferioara – Prut	SCI
20.	Fagetul Humosu	SCI
21.	Lunca Mircesti	SCI
22.	Padurea Catalina – Cotnari	SCI
23.	Padurea Frumusica	SCI
24.	Padurea Ghioghitoaia	SCI
25.	Padurea Icuseni	SCI
26.	Padurea Tatarusi	SCI
27.	Padurea Irmolea – Homita	SCI

The specialists of the Botanic Garden from Iasi are involved in the implementation process of the Natura 2000 network in the North – East Development Region by the participation as consultants in:

- national projects financed by the Environment and Sustainable Development Ministry:
  - 2005 – 2006: “The completion of the computational system for the inventory of the natural sites presenting community importance – Natura 2000” with the proposals for the habitats groups: grasslands and shrubs, plants from Habitats Directive;
- and international financing:
  - PHARE project: “Preliminary identification of the community importance sites proposed for the conservation of the species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC”, a pilot project in the general themes “The implementation of the nature conservation legislation in Europe, in Romania;
  - The project: “Implementation of the Natura 2000 network in Romania”. In this project background, in our botanic garden has been opened a posters exhibition. It was destined to the public and has benefited by the presence of the local environment authorities, journalists and mass – media. These posters reflects the biodiversity of the 5 bio-geographic regions presents on Romanian territory and the programs following to be launched in the support of the Natura 2000 network in our country.

Also, the Botanic Garden from Iasi is the custodian of the natural reservation “Fanaturile din Valea lui David” since 2005. By this custody we hope to assure a consistent support regarding the solution of the problem of the terrain utilisation by the over 50 proprietors and to realize an advanced study of all the components of the biodiversity.





Regiune biogeografică pontică - BUCUREȘTI



Regiune biogeografică panonică - TIMIȘOARA

