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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

36th meeting
Strasbourg, 15-18 November 2016

Specific Site - File open

**Proposed navigable waterway in the Bystroe Estuary
(Danube delta)
(Ukraine)**

**- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA -**

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Moldova*

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REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
ON THE SITUATION REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS INCLUDED IN
RECOMMENDATION 111 (2004)

In 2016 Moldova has taken a number of steps to create Biosphere Reserve Lower Prut.

Hence, the Ministry of Environment began the national process of creating Biosphere Reserve Lower Prut. For this purpose were developed two draft laws.

The first is the draft resolution of the Parliament on the foundation of Biosphere Reserve "Lower Prut" and the second bill amending and supplementing Law no. 1538-XIII of 25 February 1998 on State Protected Natural Areas Fund, developed in for the enactment to create the first biosphere reserve "Lower Prut" by completing Appendix nr.8 to the Law, with inclusion of the name of the protected area, surface, site and land holder.

The start of the national procedure for designating the Biosphere Reserve "Lower Prut" was possible thanks to the implementation of the project "**Consolidation of the nature protected areas network for biodiversity protection and sustainable development in the Danube Delta and Lower Prut river region – PAN Nature**". The project is financed by EU under Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova.

Within the project were developed scientific studies to create the Biosphere Reserve "Lower Prut", the functional zoning draft of the Biosphere Reserve "Lower Prut" and topographic maps of the Biosphere Reserve "Lower Prut", made decisions by the local authorities and representatives of cities within the Biosphere Reserve "Lower Prut".

The scientific study to create Biosphere Reserve "Lower Prut" confirmed that due to the unique geographical location of the reserve, its flora and fauna is diverse. These habitats support more than 160 species of vascular plants including those included in the Red Book of Moldova (*Astragalus dasyanthus* (VUL), *Colchicum triphyllum* (EN), *Dictamnus gymnostylis* (EN), *Eremogone rigida* (VUL), *Salvinia natans* (EN), *Trapa natans* (CR), *Thelypteris palustris* (EN), *Vitis sylvestris* (EN), *Nymphaea alba* (EN), *Ornithogalum oreoides* (VUL), *Rindera umbellate* (CR), *Ephedra distachya* (VUL), *Thelypteris palustris* (EN)). It also supports 34 species of mammals, 189 species of birds, 6 species of reptiles, 6 amphibians, and 23 species of fish. 24 bird species are included in the Red Book of Moldova. There are 17 critically endangered species (*Ardeola ralloids*, *Egretta alba*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Aythya niroca*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila clanga*, *Milvus milvus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Falco cherrug*, *Falco naumanni*, *Columba oenas* and *Dryocopus martius*); 3 endangered species (*Pernis apivorus*, *Asio flammeus* and *Serinus serinus*), and 2 vulnerable species (*Cygnus olor*, *Cygnus cygnus*). Some of the migratory birds occurred in the area are listed in Appendix 1 of the Bonn Convention (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Oxyura leucocephala*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Anser erythropus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*). The share of migratory bird species comprises 77% from total number of registered species.

Five species of inhabited mammals (*Felis silvestris* (EN), *Mustela erminea* (VUL), *Mustela lutreola* (CR), *Lutra lutra* (CR), *Crocidura leucodon* (CR), 2 species of reptiles (*Emys orbicularis* (CR), *Coluber jugularis* (CR), 1 species of amphibians (*Pelobates fuscus*), and 3 species of fish (*Hucho hucho*, *Umbra umbra*, *Barbus barbus*) are legally protected in Moldova. Provided information relates to the wetland situated within Moldova's borders

According to the scientific study, Biosphere Reserve "Lower Prut" will have an area of 14771.04 hectares and includes 9 localities of Cahul district.

The projects concerned were approved by the institutions concerned and will be subject to anti-corruption and legal expertise.

During the fourth meeting of the Trilateral Joint Commission established within the framework of the Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection of Romania and the Ministry

of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine on cooperation in the zone of Danube Delta and Lower River Prut nature protected areas, signed at Bucharest on June 5, 2000 it was decided that the next Joint Commission trilateral meeting, according to the Commission's Regulation to be held in mid-October in Chisinau. Given the fact that in October and November the Ministry of Environment is involved in organizing several events which led to the impossibility of organizing the fifth meeting in the established period, the Moldovan side proposed the signatory parties of the agreement to transfer it in February or March 2017.