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**Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe
in the field of biological and landscape diversity
(CO-DBP)**

Group of specialists – European Diploma for Protected Areas

28 February – 1 March 2005
Room 11, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

**DANUBE DELTA BIOSPHERE RESERVE
(Romania)**

RENEWAL

Expert report by
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*Document established by
the Directorate of Culture and
Cultural and Natural Heritage*

The European Diploma for protected areas was awarded to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania) for the first time in 2000.

The Secretariat did not accompany the expert on his visit to the reserve.

Appendix 12 reproduces Resolution (2000) 12 concerning the award of the European Diploma. In Appendix 13 the Secretariat presents a draft resolution for possible renewal.

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BACKGROUND

The purpose of the visit was to appraise the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve's suitability for the renewal of the European diploma (see programme of the visit, appendix 1).

The mission took place from 5 to 11 May 2004, on the basis of the aspects listed in appendix 3 of the Regulations of the European Diploma of Protected areas (Resolution (98) 29). The expert spent three days on the visit of the area.

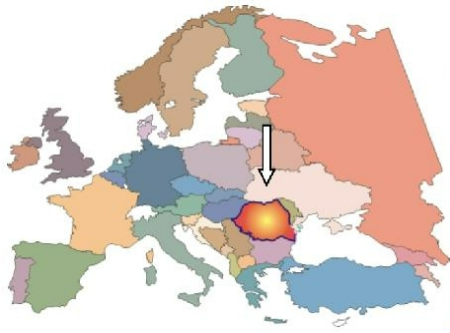
INTRODUCTION

The European diploma was given to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (DDBR) by decision of the Committee of Ministers on 21 June 2000¹, with the following recommendations:

- **Rec. 1:** to continue the process of co-ordinating the ecological management of the delta system with the three countries concerned, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, and consider the possibility of establishing a cross-boarder protected area ;
- **Rec. 2:** to reinforce the monitoring of industrial plant located within the Danube basin upstream from the delta and take appropriate measures to avoid further accidents ;
- **Rec. 3:** to continue the operations to restore the polders and monitor the results, and hand back to the reserve the areas of land no longer used for farming and fishing, with a view to their rehabilitation according to sound ecological principles;
- **Rec. 4:** to improve the standard of tourist facilities and apply land use planning rules strictly, particularly with regard to construction ;
- **Rec. 5:** to enforce the rules relating to fishing in the interests of rational fish resources management and improved protection for threatened fish species ;
- **Rec. 6:** to draw up a plan for household refuse collection and disposal sewage treatment in the reserve ;
- **Rec. 7:** to draw up architectural guidelines that respect the reserve's cultural and landscape value ;
- **Rec. 8:** to draw up a programme for rehabilitating and exploiting disused buildings and other constructions.

¹ until 20 june 2005.

The DDBR is situated in Romania (**Map 1**), on the eastern part of the country (**Map 2**), in the delta of the Danube river. It covers around 600 000 ha of wetlands (**Map 3**) and is limited by Ukraine on the north and by Moldova upstream.



Map 1



Map 2



Map 3

The DDBR was designated wetland of international importance (1993) under the Ramsar Convention, on part of its surface (580 000 ha, eg 2,5% of the territory of Romania), and world heritage site (1997) under the WH Convention.

Table 1 gives information on the functional organisation of the DDBR territory and on the spatial distribution of the main activities.

| Function | Surface (ha) |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| STRICT PROTECTED AREA | 50 600 |
| Buffer zone | 223 300 |
| Economic area | 306 100 |
| Ecological restoration | 11 425 |
| Agriculture | 39 974 |
| Fishery | 39 567 |
| Forestry | 6 442 |

Table 1: functional organisation of the DDBR (Source: DDBR)

For the record:

- *strict protected areas* (18 units) include relatively unspoilt sites, representative of the diversity of ecosystems and usually hosting the most sensitive species;
- *buffer zones* (13 units) include areas of biological interest, surrounding the SPA and dedicated to the mitigation of the external human effects on the SPA;
- *economic zones* include areas where allowed activities are traditionally undertaken, in the limits of the capacity of the ecosystems;
- *restoration areas* are places where the DDBR carries on activities in the way to rehabilitate the original ecosystems and the natural processes.

ASSESSMENT

The information in this section will follow the headings in **appendix 3** of the **Resolution (98) 29** of the regulation of the European Diploma of Protected Areas.

I European interest

The situation of the DDBR has not changed since 1999 and the reserve is still one of the most important wetlands, not only in Europe but also in the world, and hosts an outstanding biodiversity.

The DDBR contains 30 types of ecosystems where 5 000 species live, 1 689 fauna species and 3 448 flora species. Respectively, 229 of them are strictly and 91 partly protected by the Bern Convention. It is an unique habitat for many rare and endangered fauna species - birds especially (red breasted goose, white fronted goose, the two species of pelicans, ferruginous duck, white headed duck, pigmy cormorant, ...) - and flora species (water lilies, *trapa natans*, ...).

Even some ethological adaptations of migratory birds have been observed in the last past years, when they preferred to winter in the Balkans peninsula instead of the Danube delta, due to very harsh climatic conditions (it was the case for red breast goose² and for swans³), the DDBR remains an important wintering and nesting area for birds. No significant negative signs have been recorded in the reserve during the past four years, concerning the bird populations tendencies. The DDBR still hosts half of the world population of pigmy cormorant and around 40% of the world population of red breasted goose.

It even seems that the situation of the fish populations have been improved during the concerned period, as shown by an increase of captures (pikes, carps, tench, ...) ⁴, mainly due probably to the new fish regulation implemented since 2001 (law n° 92-2001) and to the efforts made by the reserve authority on the restoration of natural areas which are good fish spawning and feeding sites. Moreover, the sturgeon captures regularly increased during the same period; it could mean that their populations which are not in a good shape at international level, are recovering in the delta⁵.

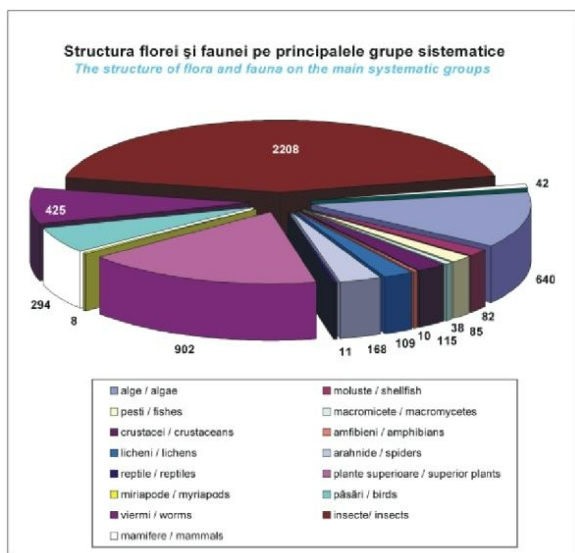


Diagramm 1 gives an overview of the biodiversity of the DDBR.

² DDBR, annual report, 2002.

³ Over than 500 swans, mostly young birds, died from the low temperature during the winter 2002-2003, representing about the quarter of the total population.

⁴ DDBR, annual reports, 2001 to 2003.

⁵ A monitoring programme is dedicated to the sturgeon natural population and efforts have been made to improve the sturgeon fishery management.

The Danube delta remains probably the largest reed-bed in the world and it is not necessary to develop the European interest of this diplomed protected area further, very well documented in the bibliography.

II MERITS AND PROTECTION SYSTEM

a. Administration and management of the DDBR

b.

The DDBR is still administered and managed by the DDBR Authority, directed by the Governor which is answerable to the Ministry in charge of Environment. Its status is enshrined in law⁶.

App. 7 et 8 give detailed information and data on the evolution of the staff organisation and of the budget dedicated to the DDBR, since the award was given to the Reserve.

The staff has significantly decreased since 2000 and now comprises 107 employees compared to 193 in 2000. **Table 2** shows the yearly evolution of the staff number during the period 2000-2004. 30% of the staff capacity, among them 35 rangers employments, were cut out in 2001 to reduce the costs of the staff administration. This decrease has been partly compensated by an increase of the technical means given to the rangers (fuel, supplies, ...) and by a larger cooperation between the various police authorities (policemen, coast guards, border guards, ...). In the same time, the decision was taken at national level to strengthen the power of the rangers in enforcing the regulation (Decision 1167/2001) and a "national ecological guard" status has been set up⁷. Globally, the human capacities dedicated to the enforcement of the DDBR regulation has not been notably reduced (see **App. 10**) and the police activities continued to increase after this decision had been taken.

| Year | Employees (N) |
|------|---------------|
| 2000 | 193 |
| 2001 | 123 |
| 2002 | 123 |
| 2003 | 122 |
| 2004 | 107 |

Table 2: Evolution of the staff number, period 2000-2004 (Source: DDBR)

| Year | Sources | Total (Millions USD) |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1999 | National | 1,488 |
| | International. | 0,522 |
| 2000 | National | 2,215 |
| | International | 0,720 |
| 2001 | National | 2,635 |
| | International | - |
| 2002 | National | 2,118 |
| | International | - |
| 2003 | National | 1,061 |
| | International | - |

Table 3: Evolution of the DDBR budget, period 1999-2003 (Source: DDBR)

⁶ Decision 248/94 establishing the boundaries of the reserve and its managing body.

⁷ Decisions n° 297/13.03.2003 establishing the national guard for environmental protection and n°745/03.07.2003 organising the national control authority.

The budget data also shows a significant reduction from 2002 to 2004 (**App. 8**). For the record, a EBRD grant (1993-1995, 725 000 Ecu) and a World Bank grant (1995-2000, 4,5 MUSD) were given to the DDBR at the end of the nineties. Since 2000, the global budget continued to increase till 2001 and then, started to decrease, especially in 2003 where 50% of it was cut out, due partly to the end of external fundings. **Table 3** summarizes those data.

A large part of this cut concerned the budget allocated to equipment and infrastructure expenses, and, conversely, the part of the budget allocated by the government to salaries, supplies, studies and research, stayed, more or less, at the same level during the last part of the covered period (2001/546 927 USD ; 2002/732 937 USD ; 2003/605 167 USD).

Those data mean that the DDBR has reached a key phase of development and, in the future, will probably have to orientate its activities more on socio-economic development issues than on equipment and infrastructures. Accurate research and studies have been carried out in the past to better know the ecological situation of the Reserve and more efforts will also be needed, henceforth, on monitoring the effects of the socio-economic activities on the reserve and the wise use of the natural resources.

Finally, the status and the component of the Scientific Council (SC) was revised in 2001⁸; the SC had approved several important documents since its nomination, *inter alia*: the DDBR management plan 2002-2006, a public awareness strategy, a strategy for the sturgeon stock management, various management plans for strict protected areas.

b. Regulations and effects of socio-economic activities

Appendix 9 summarizes the regulations enforced in the DDBR during the 1993-2003 period. The main evolutions observed since 2000, are related to three issues:

- *fishing activities* (Law n°192/19.04.2001 modified by Law n°42/21.01.2003 and Decision n°311/04.04.2002) which were totally reorganized;
- *scientific committee* (Decision n°367/18.04.2002);
- *impact assessment* (Decision n° 918/ 22.08.2002 and Order n°860/26.09.2002).

Fishery is still one of the main economic activities, after shipping⁹, involving more than 1 500 fishermen¹⁰. In 2002, an auction was organized for leasing the fishing rights in the 25 fishing areas delimited in the DDBR (**App. 4**); 12 of them were leased and 12 more in 2003. The new fish regulation will permit a better monitoring of fishing activities and also increase the outcome of this activity for the DDBR. It will facilitate the police controls and contribute, in the long term, to reduce the infringements observed in the past¹¹.

Hunting activities were totally banned between 1998 and 2000 but, under pressures coming partly from game organisations, the DDBR authority took the decision to reopen this activity which is now permitted but only in limited areas, and strictly regulated (**App. 5**).

Finally, tourism is becoming a relatively new and increasing activity in the DDBR, even if the number of visitors stayed relatively low and constant during the concerned period of time (**App. 6** and **Table 4**). Huge progress has been done by the private sector in cooperation with the DDBR administration, to develop this activity. Ancient fishfarms have been rehabilitated and transformed in high level tourist resorts, existing camping sites and other tourist accommodations have been largely improved. The DDBR itself provides information, services¹² and equipments for tourists in three visitor centres, located in Sulina, Crisan and especially in Tulcea where the most up-to-date

⁸ Decision n°367/2002.

⁹ 5 000 persons (source : DDBR).

¹⁰ 200 families, eg 10/15% of the active population.

¹¹ Reduction of the black market activities, especially.

¹² Guiding, excursions, data, hunting and fishing permits, ...

information are given to the tourists. The DDBR operates in this field in close cooperation with the Rural Tourism National Association and with the Tourism National Authority.

| |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Official numbers of visitors (estimation)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2000 (13 702), 2001 (10 174), 2002 (17 000), 2003 (6 316).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Numbers of visitors of the tourist centers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2000 (4 543/2 091 foreigners), 2001 (5 350/3 178 foreigners), 2002 (4 381/1 902 foreigners), 2003 (2 704/1 310 foreigners).</p> |
|---|

Tableau 4: Estimation of the tourism pressure, period 2000-2003 (Source: DDBR).

Appendix 10 gives data on the effectiveness of existing protective regulations; as previously mentioned, even if the ranger staff was reduced in 2001, police activities in the DDBR continued to increase over the period, both in terms of number of penalties and value of confiscated goods.

Appendix 11 summarizes the quantity of licenses delivered by the DDBR Authority, for the main activities performed in the reserve, during the period 1998-2003; those data show that the global pressure coming from those activities is increasing in terms of numbers of permits and authorisations, except for agriculture and forestry. The evolution appears to be particularly fast and significant for fishing, hunting, tourism and transport activities. Those activities need to be monitored with attention in the future.

In 2002, the DDBR hosted more than 15 000 inhabitants, mostly Romanian (12 666/87%) but also from Russian (1 438/10%), Ukrainian (299/2%), Greek (63), Turkish (17), Hungarian (12) and diverse other ethnical origins (12)¹³. The DDBR is an unusual and valuable “melting pot” of people and cultures merged in the same society and living together in a unique natural area. In this sense, the DDBR has a great cultural and architectural potential which may be taken into account in the management of the reserve.

The award was given to the DDBR with the recommendations to draw up architectural guidelines respectful of the cultural values of the reserve (Rec. 7), not only for the new buildings but also for the ancient ones, and to draw up a programme for the rehabilitation and the exploitation of disused buildings and other constructions (Rec. 8). A lot of work has been done by the DDBR, to eliminate the illegal cabins and buildings in the reserve (several hundreds of them have been destroyed since 2000). Progresses have been made also to improve the collect and the treatment of waste material in the villages, with the financial support of the SAPART programme. Restoration of public buildings have started with the financial support of the PHARE programme and old fish-farms has been transformed in high standard tourist resorts, on the initiative of the private sector. These measures have positive for the preservation of the reserve and they must be continued and strengthened in the limits of the carrying capacity of the delta.

c. Zoning

Except the fishing zoning which was revised in connection with the new fish regulation (**App. 4**), no significant change seems to have happened in the zoning of the Reserve since 2000.

d. Ownership title

In 2003, 8,249 ha of public land were transferred by law¹⁴ to the local authorities. This transfer did not influence significantly the status of the DDBR.

e. Land-use plans

A management plan for the DDBR was finalized and adopted by the scientific committee; it still has to be approved officially by the government.

¹³ Source: DDBR.

¹⁴ Law n°454/2001.

f. Development work

No comment.

g. Management plan for the area

See above (e.).

h. Public access and reception facilities

See above, § b. and Table 4.

i. Scientific studies needed and activities of research bodies

For details, refer to the annual proceedings of the Danube Delta Research Institute.

During the covered period, research activities focused on wetland restoration monitoring (Babina, Fortuna and Cernovca polders), elaboration of management plans for the strict protected areas, sturgeon monitoring and fishery, restoration of the population of the European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) in cooperation with scientists from Austria and Czech Republic, and, lastly, monitoring of fauna communities in relation with the fluctuations of the water level¹⁵.

A public awareness strategy was published in 2000.

A pre-feasibility study for the establishment of architectural guidelines was carried out in 2002; this survey will be finalized in the coming weeks.

In the coming years, the accent will probably need to be put on the monitoring of the socio-economic activities (fish, game, tourism, ...) and on the hydroecology of the DDBR, particularly in the north side of the reserve, in relation with the restoration of the Bystroe canal, which was done by Ukraine, in 2004.

j. Membership of other international networks

No changes since 2000.

k. Relationship

At the delta scale, the regional cooperation between the three countries concerned remains a difficult issue. In 2000, under the auspices of the Council of Europe, Moldova, Ukraine Romania signed a trilateral agreement for the creation and the management of a cross-boarder protected area in the Danube delta and the lower River Prut nature protected areas.

The Parties undertook to:

- harmonise their methods of management and to co-ordinate all development projects or improvements by means of a comprehensive action programme leading ultimately to the development of a joint management plan;
- coordinate research activities and monitoring of flora and fauna at the state of natural habitats, as well as policing activities;
- promote exchange of information and the sharing of experience, on scientific and technical levels, between the various authorities responsible for management of the nature protected areas, and a joint training programme for staff of these authorities, with a view to conserving the nature protected zone¹⁶.

¹⁵ Recorded in 2003, especially.

¹⁶ Art. 2.

Unfortunately, the cooperation remains very weak till now even if the annual DDBR reports mentioned cooperation activities between the three countries through this legal instrument in the three past years. A draft trans-boundary management plan would be available but it has still not been approved and more recently, the relationship between Romania and Ukraine got colder, because of the “Bystroe” issue¹⁷.

For the future, we may wish that this cooperation between the three countries for the wise management of the entire delta, be developed in a better and proper way.

CONCLUSION

Referring to the art. 9, § 5.a of Res. (98) 29 of the Committee of the Ministers and to the eight recommendations attached to the Res. Dip (2000) 12 on the award of the European Diploma to the DDBR (Romania), it is suggested that the group of specialists proposes the extension of the period of validity of the Diploma to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, for five more years, with the following recommendations, attached to the renewal decision:

- Rec. 1** To renew Rec. 1, attached to Res. Dip (2000) 12, on the coordination between the three countries concerned by the management of the entire Danube delta;
- Rec. 2** To strengthen the monitoring of the socio-economic activities in the reserve, in relation with the carrying capacity of the natural habitats;
- Rec. 3** To develop the role of the DDBR in bringing technical and financial assistance to the local municipalities in different fields (land planning, water supplies, sewage treatment, valorisation of the cultural heritage, improvement of tourist accommodations, public awareness, ...);
- Rec. 4** To add an economist to the DDBR staff ; this professional will elaborate and follow up a monitoring programme on the main socio-economic activities performed in the reserve (ecotourism, fishing, shipping, agriculture, forestry, hunting, ...) ; he will also bring a technical assistance to the local population and to the private operators, for organizing and developing their activities, ecotourism notably;
- Rec. 5** To elaborate a restoration programme for the existing buildings, using traditional materials and natural local products;
- Rec. 6** Ten years after its elaboration, to order an external review and assessment of the DDBR strategy (priorities, management objectives, operational objectives, ...), with the support of the international expertise.

¹⁷ See the on the sport mission report, concerning the Project of construction of a navigation canal in Danube Biosphere Reserve (22nd-25th July 2004) (T-PVS/files (2004)3).

APPENDIX I

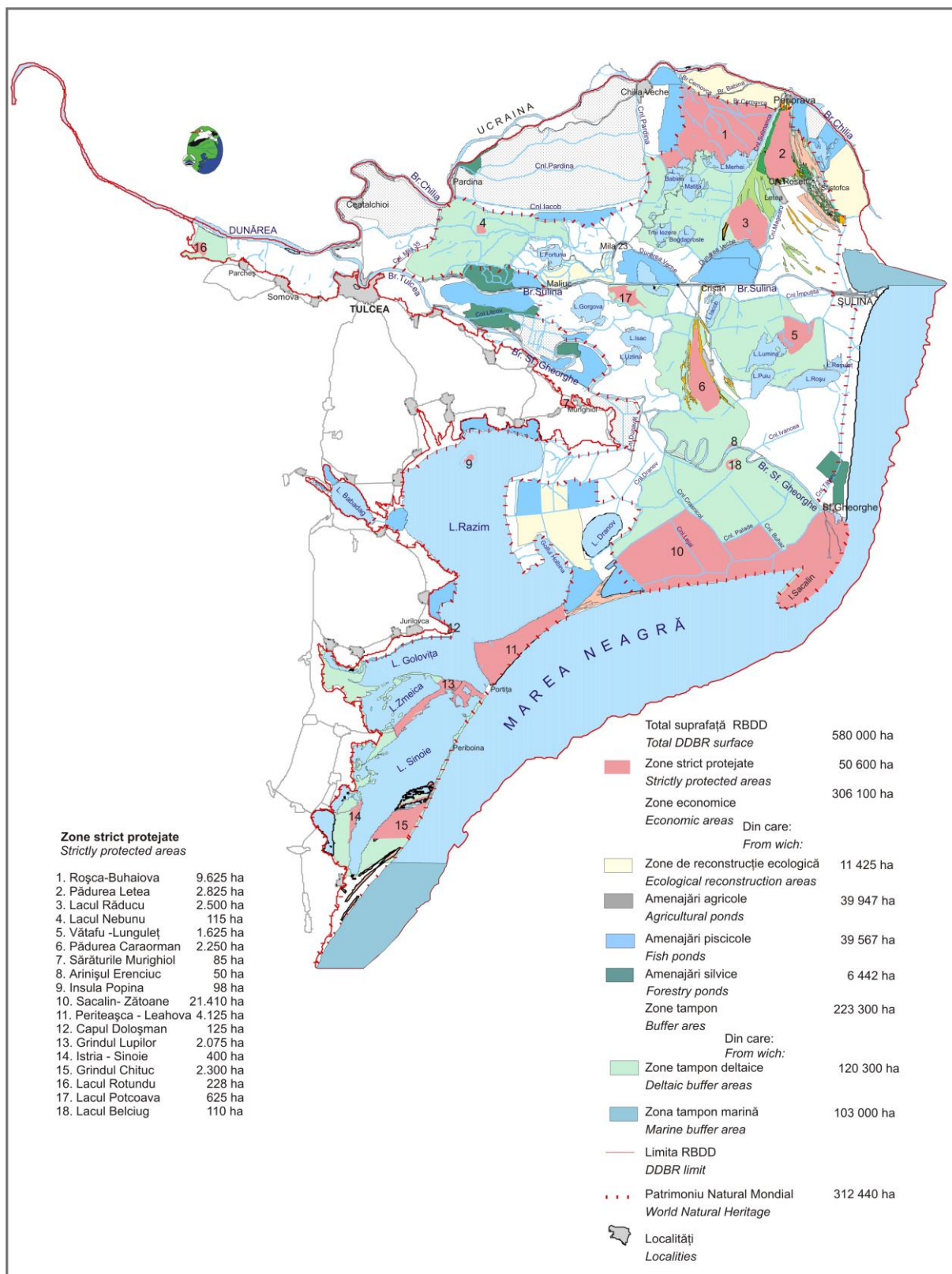
PROGRAMME OF THE VISIT

| | |
|--|--|
| Wednesday, 5th of May: | arrival at Bucharest transfer to Tulcea, accommodation in Tulcea |
| Thursday-Friday (6th-7th of May): | |
| Tulcea | lecture at the information seminar <i>“Sustainable Spatial Development and the European Landscape Convention”</i> , co-organized by the Council of Europe and Romania |
| Saturday, 8th of May: | Field visit of the DDBR |
| Tulcea – Chilia Veche | meetings with the Mayor of the municipality and the manager of a fishing company visit of the ecological restoration of Babina and Cernovca polders |
| Sulina | discussion with the DDBR staff accommodation. |
| Sunday, 9th of May: | |
| Sulina | meeting with the Mayor of Sulina, halt to the visitor centre |
| Sf. Gheorghe | meeting with a fishing company manager visit of Sacalin – Zatoane strictly protected areas |
| Uzlina | discussion with the DDBR staff meeting with journalists accommodation. |
| Monday, 10th of May: | |
| Uzlina | visit of the “Cormoran” tourist complex and tourist zone Isac-Uzlina lakes |
| Litcov Channel – Crişan | accommodation at a tourist pension |
| Tulcea. | meeting with the Governor, dinner accommodation |
| Tuesday, 11th of May | travel with the Governor to Bucharest meeting with the delegate of UNESCO departure from Bucharest to Geneva |

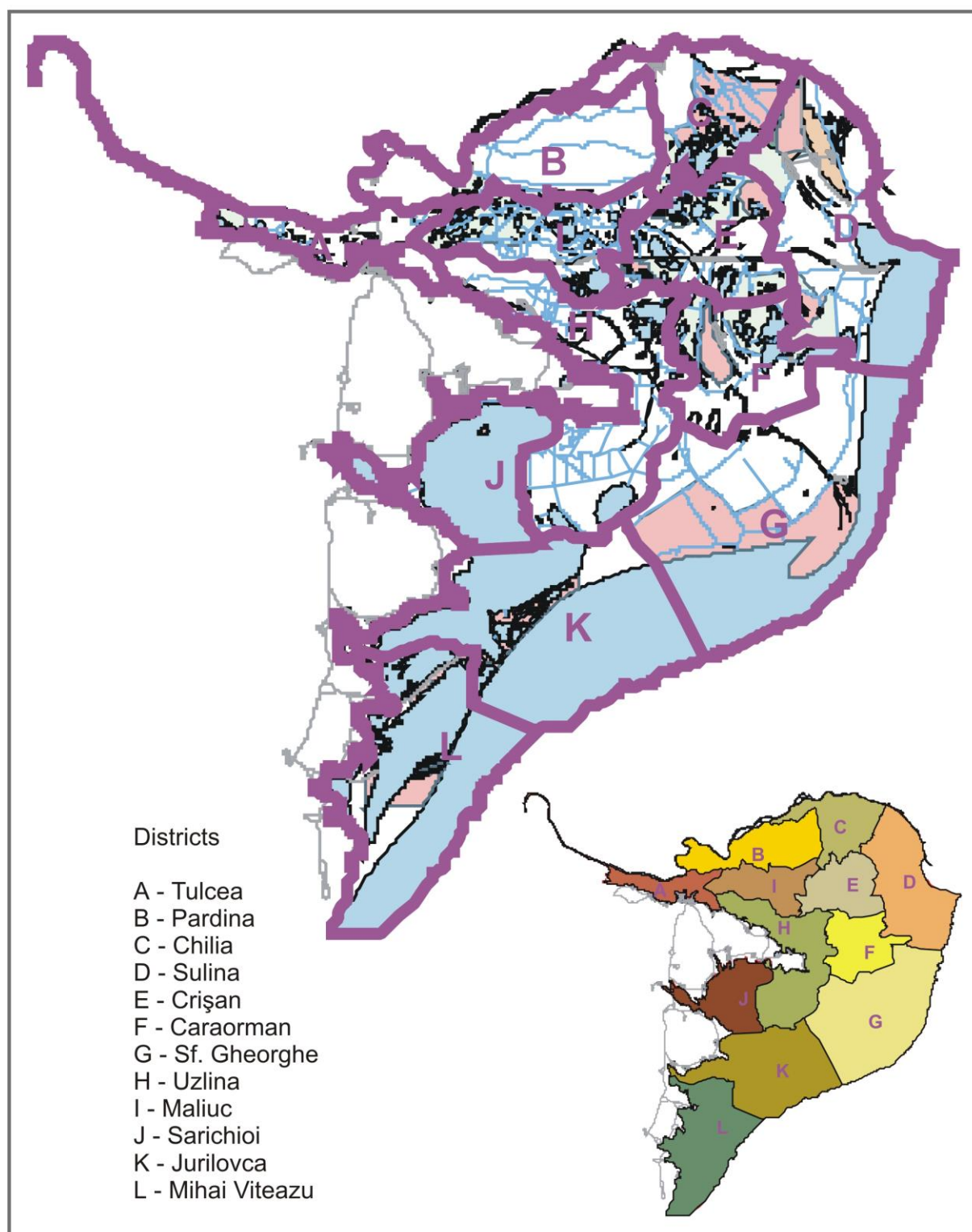
APPENDIX II

Strict protected areas

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

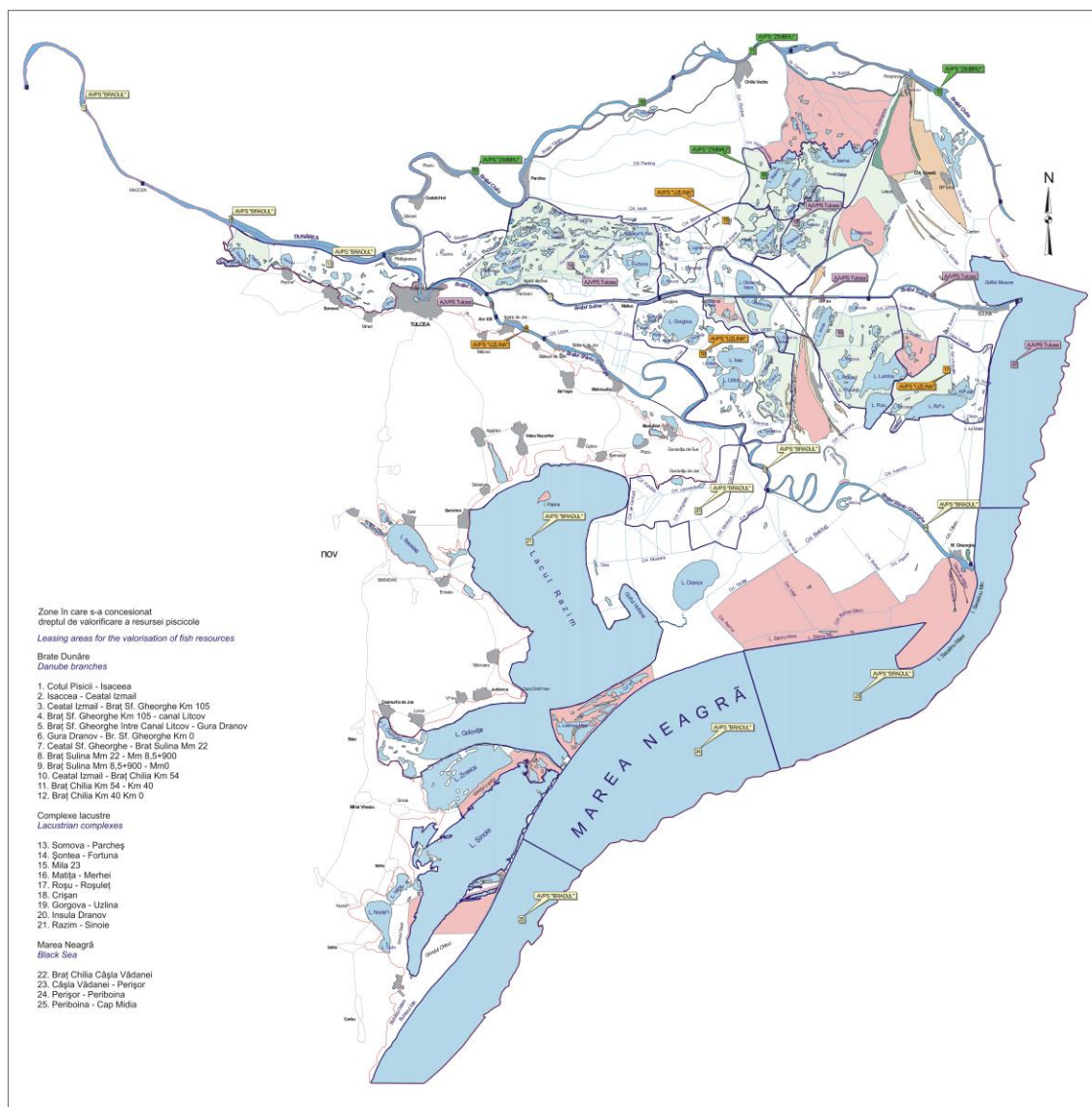


APPENDIX III

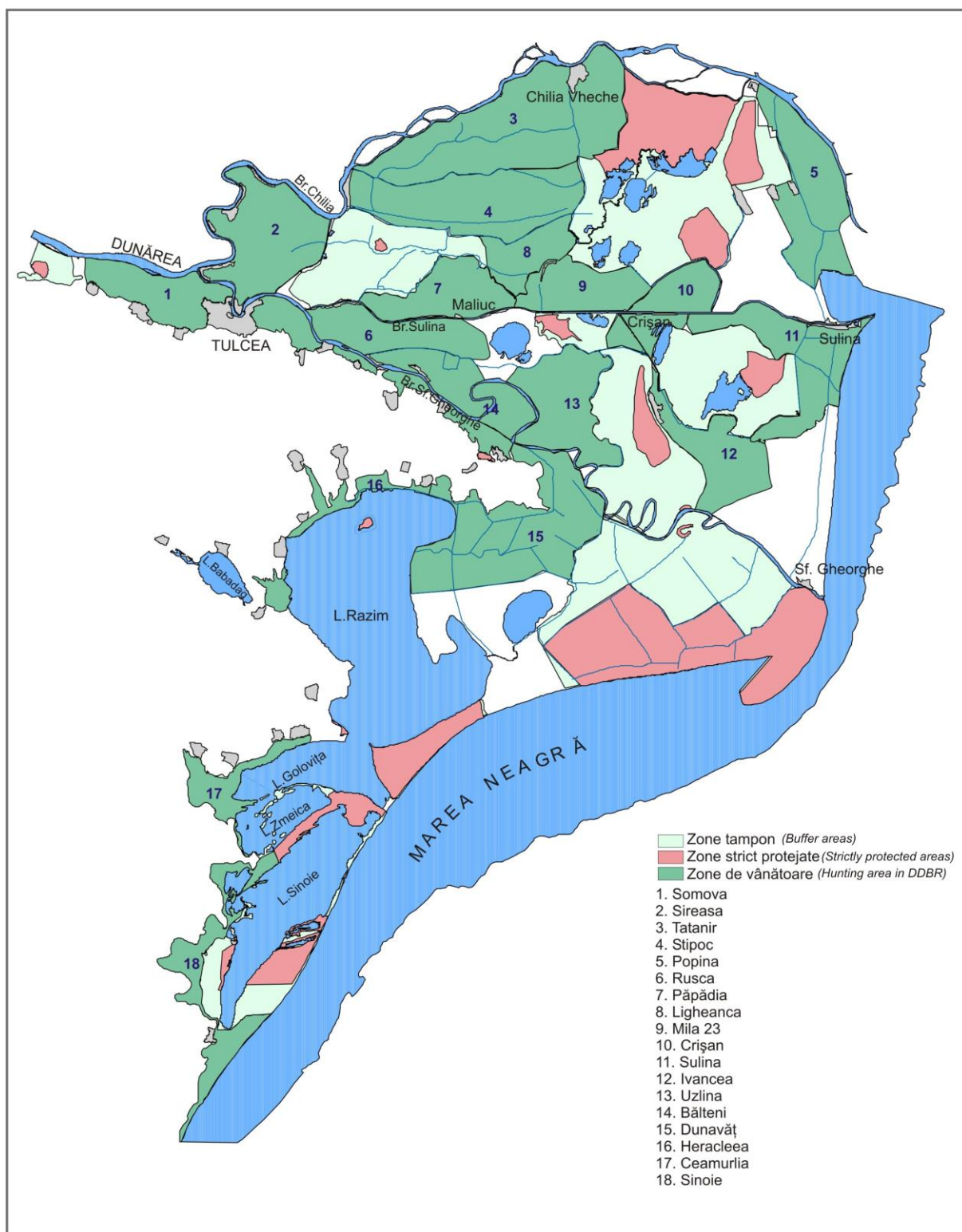
Districts in Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

APPENDIX IV

Fish concessions

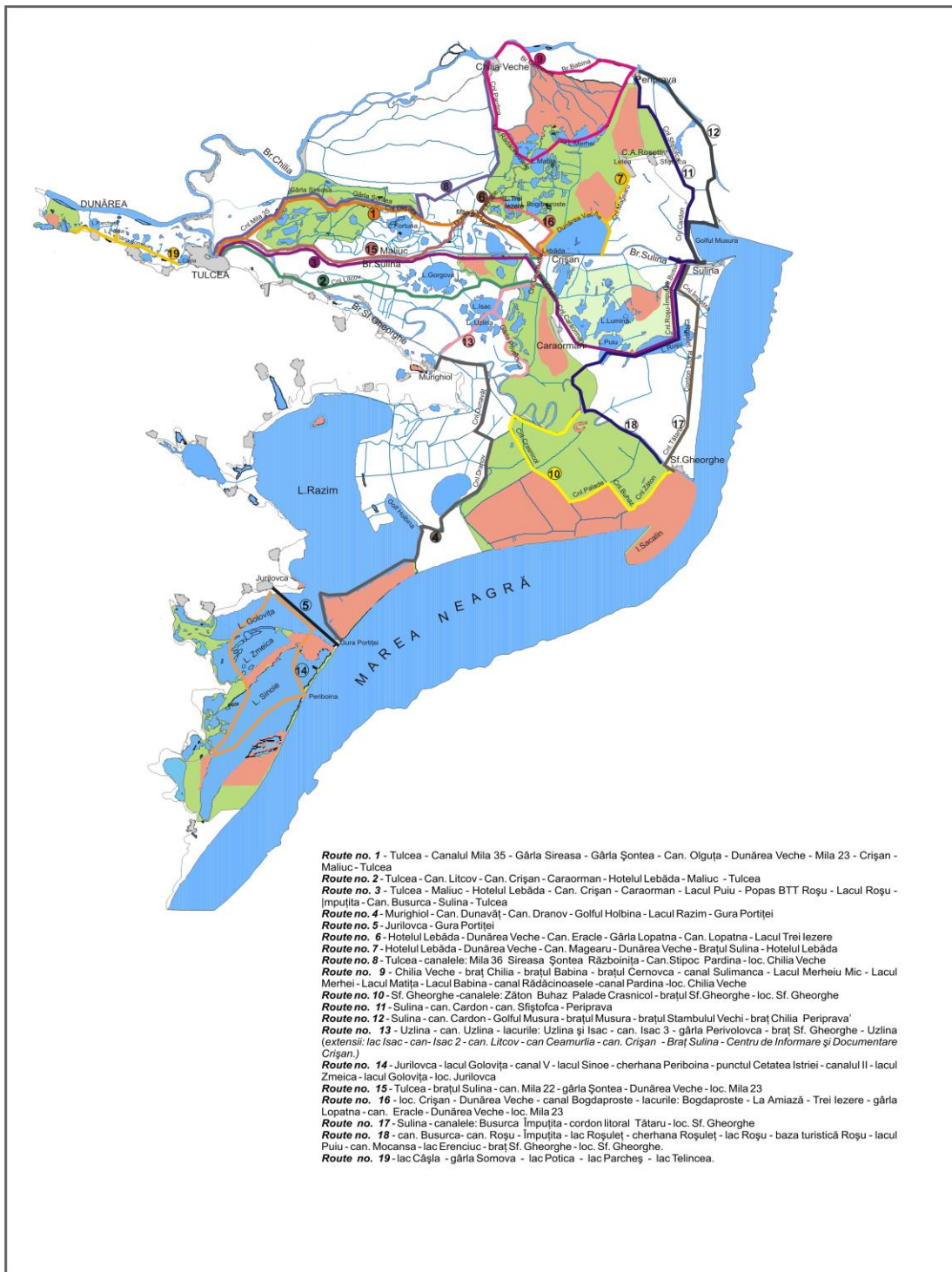


APPENDIX V

Hunting areas in Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

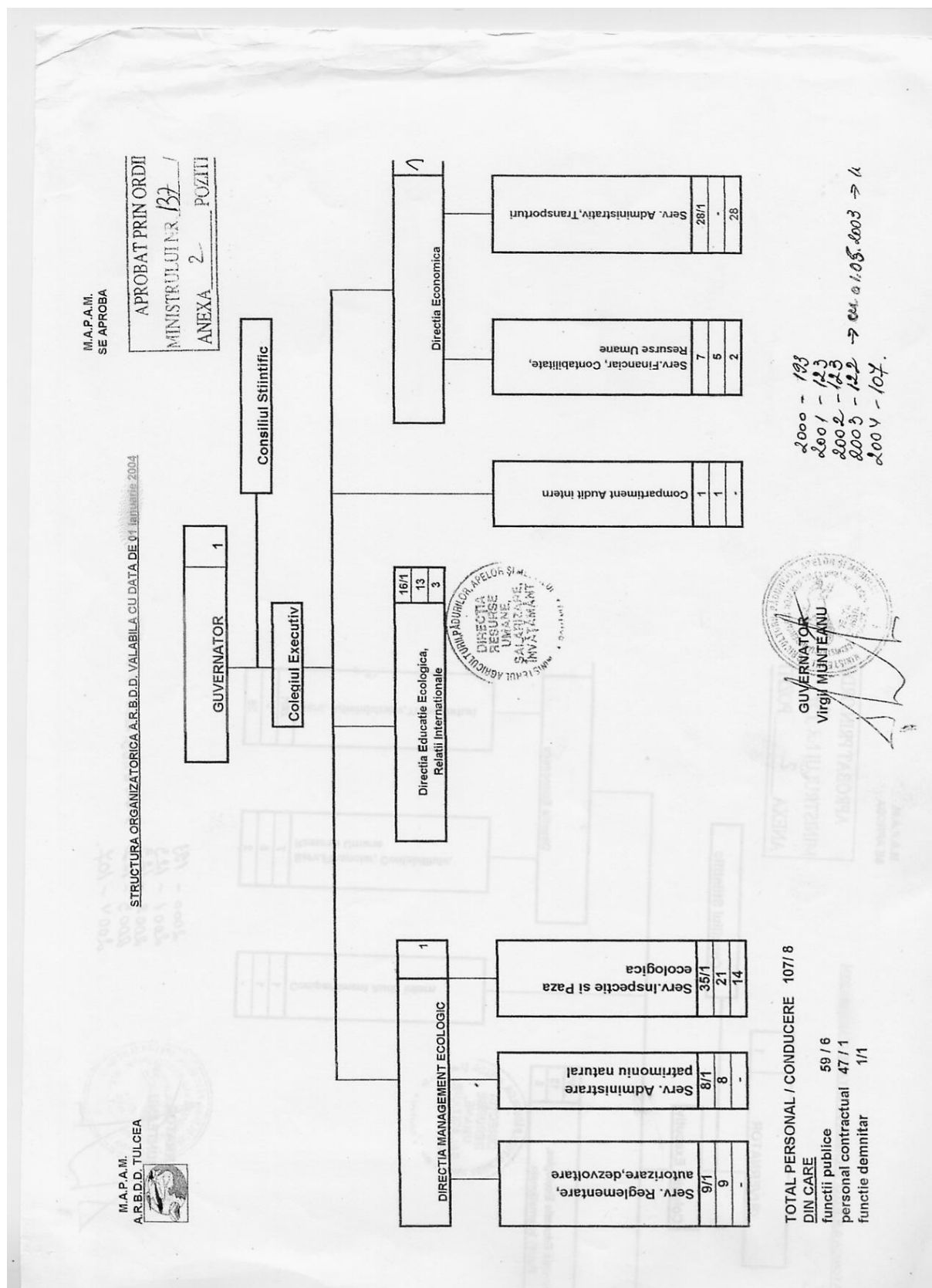
APPENDIX VI

Touristic routes



APPENDIX VII

Internal organisation



APPENDIX VIII

Budget tendencies

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority
Budget development during the 1999 – 2003 periods

| Years | Details | T O T A L | Salaries | Supplies | Studies& Researches | Equipment | Ecological restoration& Infrastructure |
|-------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| 1999 | Total | 2,011,560 | 314,720 | 221,193 | 243,167 | 63,549 | 1,168,231 |
| | National | 1,488,650 | 314,720 | 98,461 | 3,867 | 2,179 | 1,069,423 |
| | International | 522,910 | - | 122,732 | 240,000 | 61,370 | 98,808 |
| 2000 | Total | 2,936,150 | 380,953 | 251,981 | 365,813 | 104,049 | 1,833,444 |
| | National | 2,215,502 | 380,953 | 153,671 | 15,033 | 3,828 | 1,662,017 |
| | International | 720,648 | - | 98,220 | 350,780 | 100,221 | 171,427 |
| 2001 | Total | 2,635,892 | 300,602 | 212,670 | 33,655 | 8,872 | 2,080,093 |
| | National | 2,635,892 | 300,602 | 212,670 | 33,655 | 8,872 | 2,080,093 |
| | International | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2002 | Total | 2,118,370 | 304,956 | 411,986 | 15,997 | 7,192 | 1,378,239 |
| | National | 2,118,370 | 304,956 | 411,986 | 15,997 | 7,192 | 1,378,239 |
| | International | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2003 | Total | 1,061,991 | 266,303 | 312,237 | 26,627 | 2,974 | 453,850 |
| | National | 1,061,991 | 266,303 | 312,237 | 26,627 | 2,974 | 453,850 |
| | International | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Deputy Executive Director

Ec. Ioan PAPUC

APPENDIX IX**The development of the regulation and authorisation process of the economic activities in DDBR, during 1998-2003**

1. Regulation and authorisation activity of the the economic activities from DDBR are taking place in the conditions that DDBRA has double capacity as the manager of the public domain of national interest and the environment authority, under the Law no. 137/1995, republished, with further changes and completions, regarding the environment protection and the Law no. 82/1993 regarding the establishment of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, with further changes and completions.

2. The main normative documents based on which are emitted the authorisation documents (in order of their emission):

- 2.1 **LAW No. 82 from 20th of November 1993** regarding the establishment of the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve
- 2.2 **GOVERNMENT DECISION No. 248 from 27th of May 1994** for the endorsement of some measures in view to enforce the Law no. 82/1993 regarding the establishment of the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve
- 2.3 **LAW No. 137 from 29th of December 1995**, the Law of the environment protection
- 2.4 **ORDER No. 125 from 19th of March 1996** for the approval of the Procedure for regulation of the economic and social activities with impact on environment
- 2.5 **DECREE No. 27 from 5th August 1996** regarding the granting of facilities to the persons that are living or working in some localities from Western Mountains and "Danube Delta" Reserve
- 2.6 **LAW No. 103 from 23rd of September 1996** The Law of the hunting fund protection and game protection
- 2.7 **LAW No. 107 from 25th of September 1996** The Waters Law
- 2.8 **LAW No. 96 from 10th of June 1997** for the approval of the Government Decree no. 27/1996 regarding the granting of facilities to the persons living or working in some localities from Western Mountains and "Danube Delta" Reserve
- 2.9 **DECISION No. 516 from 12th of September 1997** regarding some measures for practising fishing on the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve's territory
- 2.10 **LAW No. 219 from 25th of November 1998** regarding the granting regime
- 2.11 **EMERGENCY DECREE No. 112 from 29th of June 2000** for changing and completing the Law no. 82/1993 regarding the establishment of the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve
- 2.12 **LAW No. 192 from 19th of April 2001** regarding the fish fund, fishing and aquaculture
- 2.13 **ORDER No. 647 from 6th of July 2001** for the approval of the Procedure for authorisation of the activities of harvesting, capturing and/or acquiring or trading on internal market or for exporting the plants and animals from wild flora and fauna, as well as their importing.
- 2.14 **LAW No. 454 from 18th of July 2001** regarding the approval of the Emergency Decree no. 112/2000 for changing and completing the Law no.

82/1993 regarding the establishment of the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve

- 2.15 **EMERGENCY DECREE No. 34 from 21st of March 2002** regarding the prevention, reduction and integrated control of pollution
- 2.16 **DECISION No. 311 from 4th of April 2002** for the approval of granting the fish resources use from the areas of the public domain of national interest from the territory of the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve
- 2.17 **DECISION No. 367 from 18th of April 2002** regarding the approval of the Statute for the structure and working of the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve Authority and the nominal composition of the Scientific Council
- 2.18 **DECISION No. 573 from 13th of June 2002** for the approval of the procedures for authorising the merchants working
- 2.19 **DECISION No. 918 from 22nd of August 2002** regarding the establishment of the frame-procedure for the assessment of the impact on environment and for the approval of the list of public or private projects under this procedure
- 2.20 **ORDER No. 860 from 26th of September 2002** for the approval of the Procedure for the assessment of the impact on environment and for the emission of the environment agreement
- 2.21 **DECISION No. 699 from 12th of June 2003** regarding the establishment of some measures for the reduction of the emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain activities and installations

3. The documents emitted by DDBRA, based on which is allowed to develop economic activities on the reserve's territory, are:

3.1 **Environment licence** (emitted based on the Law no. 137/1995 stipulations and enforcement procedures);

3.2 **Environment agreements** (emitted based on the Law no 137/1995 stipulations and enforcement procedures);

3.3 **Industrial fishing licences** (emitted based on GD 516/1997 regarding some measures for fishing practising on the "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve's territory)

3.4 **Family fishing licences** (emitted based on Law 96/1997 for the approval of the Government Decree no. 27/1996 regarding the granting of facilities to the persons living or working in some localities from Western Mountains and "Danube Delta" Biosphere Reserve)

3.5 **Access permits** (emitted based on Law 82/1993)

3.6 **Permits for sportive hunting activities development** (emitted based on the Law of the hunting fund and game protection no. 103/23.09.1996 and based on the Law 82/1993).

APPENDIX X

DANUBE DELTA BIOSPHERE RESERVE AUTHORITY

PENALTIES ENFORCED IN DDBR, DURING 1999 - 2004

| YEAR | Penalties Enforced | | Penalties value (fines and compensations) | Confiscated goods (non perishable), Total, from which: | | Confiscated goods (perishable) | Total value of the confiscated goods ('000 ROL) |
|------|--------------------|-------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | Warning (no.) | Fines (no.) | | Fishing tools (no.) | Other goods | | |
| 1999 | 67 | 1,056 | 261,706 | 3,542 | 4 boats; | 6,556 kg fish; | 4,591.44 |
| | | | | | 5 boat motors; | 3.2 kg spawn; | |
| | | | | | 1 audio decoy, | 48 muskrat skin; | |
| | | | | | Plurifon; | 18 Garganey | |
| | | | | | 55 decoys | (<i>Anas querquedula</i>) | |
| 2000 | 64 | 937 | 274,976.57 | 5,936 | 16 boats; | 8,162 kg fish; | 8,192.87 |
| | | | | | 9 boat motors; | 30 kg wild boar | |
| | | | | | 2 boat oars; | | |
| | | | | | 34 muskrat traps; | | |
| | | | | | 1 electric fishing apparatus; | | |
| | | | | | 1 storage battery; | | |
| | | | | | 1 cub meter of willow | | |
| 2001 | 9 | 580 | 646,900 | 8,997 | 34 boats; | 6,596 kg fish; | 84,830.0 |

Eng. Nicolae Bahaciu

APPENDIX XI

Main activities

REGULATING THE MAIN ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN DDBR, DURING 1998 - 2003

| No. | ACTIVITY | DOCUMENTS | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | TOTAL |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. | FISHING | Industrial fishing licence | - | 1667 | 111 | 213 | 243 | 168 | 2402 |
| | | Family fishing licence | - | - | 490 | 2714 | 100 | 125 | 3429 |
| | | Environment licence 647/2001 | - | 4 | 240 | 1925 | 2232 | 624 | 5025 |
| 2. | FISHERY | Environment licence | - | 6 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 17 | 39 |
| 3. | AGRICULTURE | Environment licence | - | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 23 |
| 4. | HUNTING | Hunting licence | - | - | - | 2 | 28 | 22 | 52 |
| | | Environment licence 647/2001 | - | - | - | 13 | 19 | 19 | 51 |
| 5. | TOURISM | Environment licence MO 125/1996 | - | - | 5 | 15 | 43 | 59 | 122 |
| | | Access permit (TAA *) | - | 44 | 49 | 72 | 43 | 77 | 285 |
| 6. | FOREST FUND AND FORESTRY | Access permit (CT **) | - | 197 | 204 | 692 | 881 | 901 | 2875 |
| | | Environment licence MO 125/1996 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| 7. | TRANSPORT | Environment licence | - | - | 2 | 14 | 66 | 94 | 176 |
| 8. | OTHER ACTIVITIES | Environment licence | - | 17 | 178 | 147 | 72 | 56 | 470 |

* Tourism performed by authorised agents;

** Circumstantial tourism.

Regulations, Authorisation, Development Dept.
CBenea/CDumitrescu/03.04.2004

APPENDIX XII**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS****Resolution Dip (2000) 12
on the award of the European Diploma
to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve
(Romania)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 June 2000
at the 715th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,
Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma, as amended by Resolution (98) 29 on the regulations for the European Diploma for protected areas;

Taking into consideration the expert's report as presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 21 and 22 February 2000;

Having regard to the proposals of the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of biological and landscape diversity (CO-DBP);

Having noted the agreement of the Government of Romania;

After deliberation,

Solemnly awards the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, in accordance with the Regulations for the European Diploma, as an example of a unique wetland, harbouring a wealth of flora and fauna – in particular fish, and as such an outstanding biological, landscape and cultural asset for Europe;

Places the aforesaid reserve under the patronage of the Council of Europe until 20 June 2005;

Attaches the following recommendations to the award:

1. Continue the process of co-ordinating the ecological management of the delta system with the three countries concerned, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, and consider the possibility of establishing a cross-border protected area.
2. Reinforce the monitoring of industrial plant located within the Danube basin upstream from the delta and take appropriate measures to avoid further accidents.
3. Continue the operations to restore the polders and monitor the results, and hand back to the Reserve the areas of land no longer used for farming or fishing, with a view to their rehabilitation according to sound ecological principles.
4. Improve the standard of tourist facilities and apply land use planning rules strictly, particularly with regard to construction.
5. Enforce the rules relating to fishing in the interests of rational fish resources management and improved protection for threatened fish species.
6. Draw up a plan for household refuse collection and disposal and sewage treatment in the reserve.
7. Draw up architectural guidelines that respect the reserve's cultural and landscape value.
8. Draw up a programme for rehabilitating and exploiting disused buildings and other constructions.

APPENDIX XIII

**Draft resolution
on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas
to the Danube delta biosphere reserve
(Romania)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma as amended by Resolution (98) 29 on the regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (2000) 12 on the award of the European Diploma to the Danube delta biosphere reserve;

Taking into consideration the expert's report as presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists for the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 28 February and 1 March 2005;

Having regard to the proposals of the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of biological and landscape diversity (CO-DBP);

Renews until 20 June 2010 the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Danube delta biosphere reserve;

Attaches the following recommendations to the renewal:

1. Continue the process of co-ordinating the ecological management of the delta system with the three countries concerned, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, and consider the possibility of establishing a cross-border protected area;
2. Strengthen the monitoring of the socio-economic activities in the reserve, in relation with the carrying capacity of the natural habitats;
3. Develop the role of the Danube delta biosphere reserve in bringing technical and financial assistance to the local municipalities in different fields (land planning, water supplies, sewage treatment, valorisation of the cultural heritage, improvement of tourist accommodation, public awareness, ...);
4. Include an economist in the Danube delta biosphere reserve staff; this professional will elaborate and follow up a monitoring programme on the main socio-economic activities performed in the reserve (ecotourism, fishing, shipping, agriculture, forestry, hunting, ...); he will also bring technical assistance to the local population and to the private operators, for organising and developing their activities, in particular ecotourism;
5. Elaborate a restoration programme for the existing buildings, using traditional materials and natural local products;
6. Order an external review and assessment of the Danube delta biosphere reserve strategy (priorities, management objectives, operational objectives, ...), ten years after its elaboration, with the support of the international expertise.