



Republic of Moldova: biodiversity and health mainstreaming

Dr. Angela Lozan & Dr. Sergiu Ciobanu



**Regional Workshop on
Biodiversity and Health,
23-25 October 2017, Helsinki,
Finland**

What joint actions have the health and biodiversity sectors taken in order to develop policies and promote activities that try to achieve co-benefits for human health and biodiversity?

Healthcare Sector

- National Health Policy for 2007-2021, 2007
- National Public Health Strategy, 2013.
- National Strategy on Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control 2012-2020, 2012.
- Law on the State Supervision of Public Health, 2009

integrate the environmental issues:

- water quality and drinking water supply
- air pollution standards
- Microbiological safety
- foodsafety standards

4) What, if any, are the best practices in your country that jointly address human health and biodiversity concerns and opportunities?

Case study: GEOHEALTH – One Health Center for Environmental and Occupational Research (2012 – 2015)

- The University of Florida Department of Environmental and Global Health created a One Health Center for Environmental and Occupational Research GEOHealth Hub in 7 other Eastern European and Central Asian: Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Romania.
- The GEOHealth Hub focuses on three research and training areas: 1) aquatic health, 2) food safety, and 3) zoonotic diseases.

Specific problems

Iodine Deficiency in water
Excess fluoride in groundwater
Fluoride Deficiency in the water
Phreatic water pollution with nitrates (methemoglobinemia)

High mineralization of groundwater
Contamination of food-stuffs by pathogen and conditionally pathogen microorganisms
Pollution of food-stuffs with nitrates, nitrites and nitrosamines
Pollution of food-stuffs with pesticides
Pollution of food-stuffs with heavy metals

Salmonella infections
Lyme disease
Echinococcosis
Leptospirosis
Q Fever
Rabies (in animal population)

1) What joint actions have the health and biodiversity sectors taken in order to develop policies and promote activities that try to achieve co-benefits for human health and biodiversity?

- NBSAP-National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity for Moldova, 2015-2020, 2015
- Law on the environment protection, 2014
- Law on the animal kingdom, 1995
- Law on vegetal kingdom, 2007
- Law on the fund of state protected natural areas, 1998
- Law on biological security, 2001
- Law on the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova, 2005
- Law on the ecological network, 2007

NBSAP for 2015-2020

- “... economic assessment is focused on final benefits or the outcomes for society resulted from using services provided by ecosystems. “
- “Potential ecosystem services that can be provided to national economic sectors and which benefit from them, are as follows:
 - supply services – food, wood, water, medicines (natural medicines),
 - sources of energy (natural fuel, hydro-energy),
 - biochemistry (biochemical and genetic products) etc.;”

Action Plan

for the enforcement of the Strategy on Biological Diversity of the
Republic of Moldova for the 2015-2020

Joint efforts of ME, MH:

- Develop and promote normative acts on deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment in compliance with the Directive 2001/18/EC;
- Integrating the provisions on conservation of the biological diversity in the most important sector policy documents by 2020 ;
- Implement the National Framework on Biological Safety in accordance with the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol;
- Establish a training and advisory center for biosafety.

NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Priority Risks and Opportunities for Health Detail of magnitude risk/ opportunity

- Increase in heatwave-related deaths
- Increase in air pollution-related diseases
- Changes in phenological phases and increased risk of
- allergic disorders
- Increased risk of drought and water scarcity
- Flood increase in frequency and intensity
- Increase the burden of waterborne and foodborne
- diseases

4) What, if any, are the best practices in your country that jointly address human health and biodiversity concerns and opportunities?

Case study - **The National Biosafety Commission**

- Members from sectorial gov. bodies, inclusive Health Ministry and center for public health and universities
- Connection between research and administration
- Risk assessment of LMOs on the environment and public health

4) What, if any, are the best practices in your country that jointly address human health and biodiversity concerns and opportunities?

- ***Case study - Capacity-building to promote integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level – CBD/UNEP project***
 - identified challenges, capacity needs, opportunities, good practices and lessons learned to further mainstreaming biosafety.
 - a *round-table meeting* where participants from different sectors including biodiversity and healthcare provided input.
 - a roadmap on improvement sectorial regulations discussed at the *awareness-building seminar* targeting decision-makers



Joint Programme

Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites,

Emerald Network – **270855ha,**
or 8,2%

Emerald **sites** – **52;**

Emerald **habitats** – **30;**

Emerald **species**: Total: **152sp.**

Plant sp.: 11sp.;

Animal sp.: 141sp.:

mammals – 14sp.,

birds – 80sp.,

reptiles – 2sp.,

amphibians – 3sp,

fish – 18sp.,

insects – 24sp



Reteaua Emerald in Republica Moldova

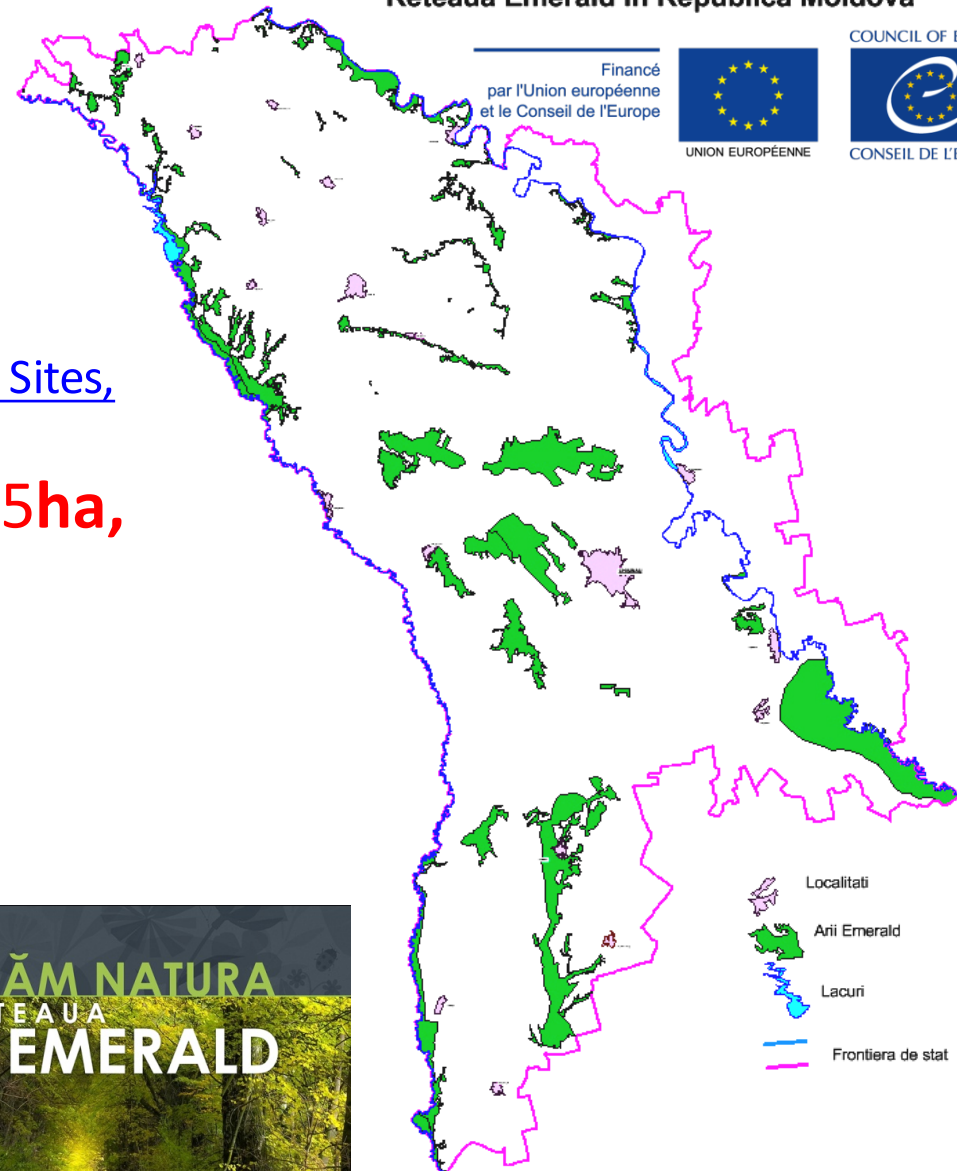
Financé
par l'Union européenne
et le Conseil de l'Europe



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Mis en œuvre
par le Conseil de l'Europe



3) What is needed, at the national and regional scales, in terms of research, capacity building and information dissemination for joint human health and biodiversity sector actions?

- Needed: to integrate environment-and-health risk management into local and national planning processes (policy);
- to ensure an adequate level of health-system preparedness and response in vulnerable sector of biodiversity and ecosystem protection;
- to increase the national and local capacity to respond to public environmental health risks;
- to develop efficient information management systems at local and national levels, also for general public;
- ecosystem management planning involving ecosystem services and health care issues;
- to improve Inter-sectorial communication between EN and HC;
- Capacity building for training (national, regional...)

5) What collaborative mechanisms/examples currently exist within your country or region for cross-sector human health and biodiversity collaboration? How can we promote further collaboration? What impedes collaborative action?

- - CBD FP, WHO FP and task force
- National Biosafety Commission

Impediments:

- Poor communication
- Biodiversity issues not sufficiently integrated into the healthcare policies and regulation
- Lack of monitoring and IT database
- Human resources upgrading of their skills via capacity building trainings

6) What actions for human health and biodiversity are needed as a matter of urgency (1 year); medium term (2- 5 years); and in the long term (6 – 8 years)?

- it is necessary to integrate environment-and-health risk management into local and national planning processes;
- it is necessary to ensure an adequate level of health-system preparedness and response in vulnerable sectors like air, food and water;
- it is necessary to increase the national and local capacity to respond to public environmental health risks;
- it is necessary to develop efficient information management systems at local and national levels, also for the general public.

6) What actions for human health and biodiversity are needed as a matter of urgency (1 year); medium term (2- 5 years); and in the long term (6 – 8 years)?

- development of a normative/technical framework;
- strengthening, monitoring biodiversity and health risks and controlling disease system;
- Improve inter-sectorial communication and coordination mechanism;
- building capacities through a continuing training process.

THANK YOU!

