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ABOUT NATURAL CAPITAL

Country Fact Sheet  
**ROMANIA**



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## Country Fact Sheet: Romania (RO)

*Edited by:*

Georgia Arhire, Relu Giuca, Constantin Cazacu

University of Bucharest – Research Centre in Systems Ecology and Sustainability

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This fact sheet is based on what partners in SELINA know about what is going on in their country and some additional literature. If you feel there are ongoing or upcoming research projects, policy initiatives or legislations, concerning the use of biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services knowledge in decisions and policies, missing please contact [inge.liekens@vito.be](mailto:inge.liekens@vito.be) and we update the country fact sheet (until March 2027)

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## Update on projects concerning biodiversity, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services assessment and accounting since 2022

In Romania, a project was implemented for the mapping of ES at national level as a support tool for the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020. This project, entitled “Demonstrating and promoting natural values in support of decision-making processes in Romania” (N4D), was developed by several institutions including National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), WWF-Romania, Romanian Space Agency and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA).

No new national assessment of ecosystem services since 2022 in Romania, but in several protected areas, National Parks and Natura 2000 sites, the administrators contracted experts and consultancy companies to perform mapping, assessing and accounting of the ecosystem services provided in particular by forest and pasture ecosystems focusing more on provision and cultural services. Another initiative was the project IDES – “Improving water quality in the Danube River and its tributaries by integrative floodplain management based on Ecosystem Services” which devel-

oped the IDES Manual, presenting a new approach for ecosystem service-based integrative floodplain management, one which considers all relevant societal interests and objectives. Twenty-six ecosystem services which are typically provided by river-floodplain systems in the Danube River basin were selected from the three main groups of services and evaluated.

Another three large scale biodiversity or condition monitoring projects were finalised in Romania in 2022:

- National monitoring of habitats and species conservation status according to the Article 17 of Habitat Directive (Romania, 2019-2022).
- National monitoring of bird species conservation status according to the Article 12 of Birds Directive (Romania, 2018-2022).
- National assessment and monitoring of invasive species according to Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 (Romania, 2018-2022).



## 2

# Examples of uptake in decision processes, regulations and/or legislation

In Romania there is not any legal obligation to perform ecosystem service mapping or assessment, despite the fact that in several policy texts there are references

to quality or quantity related with different resources (e.g. water, food etc.) in the WFD and CAP.

## 3

# Perceived barriers and needs to enhance uptake

### 3.1 Barriers

- Lack of policies and procedures related with ecosystem services.

### 3.2 Needs

- Clear policies/legislative measures and guides/procedures.





# 4

## On the way to transformative change

The overall conclusion of the IPBES global assessment (IPBES 2019) was that Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond, may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors.

Transformative or transformational change refers to “a fundamental, system-wide reorganization

across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values” (IPBES, 2019). Simply said, doing things differently, rather than doing less or optimising the system.

A means to enhance uptake is bringing people of the quadruple helix together and exchange information and learn from each other. Another is to establish projects that can show that it works and lead to possible pathways of transformative change.

### 4.1 Community of practice

A Community of Practice under the auspices of SELINA was established. The first meeting of the Romanian SELINA Community of Practice (CoP) took place on 22 January 2024 in Bucharest, at the University of Bucharest Platform for Research on Systemic Biology and Ecology. The meeting was an in-person event and was attended by thirteen professionals in the field of ecology and environmental protection. Stakeholders were representatives of academia, research, non-governmental organisations, private business and government administration.

The meeting started with a general presentation of the SELINA project and an introduction of the “seeds

of change”, transformative change and Community of Practice, followed by a dialog and an exchange of different work-related experiences and knowledge regarding the relationships between ecosystem services and biodiversity protection. Participants had the opportunity to present to each other and to discuss their selected project for the filling in of the SELINA “seeds of change” questionnaire.

At the end of the meeting, participants showed interest in further cooperation and information exchange to support ecosystem services research and to facilitate a better integration of them in biodiversity conservation policies in our country.



## 4.2 Seeds of transformative change

**Several projects were nominated as a seed of change:**

**EcoClub:** Improving the efficiency of learning processes through the support provided by extracurricular activities and supporting the personal development of children as future citizens actively involved in the sustainable future of the Earth.

**REVISION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DANUBE DELTA BIOSPHERE RESERVE:** increasing the degree of protection and conservation of biodiversity

**Degraded mires and peatlands restoration of North-East 1 region of Romania (Peat R02):**

- To restore the structure and function within 12 degraded wetland/peatland ecosystems
- Mitigate the effects of climate change on a number of 12 wetland/peatland degraded ecosystems
- Raising awareness amongst local communities, stakeholders and the general public, about the importance of wetland /peatlands
- To support local capacity to mitigate the effects and adapt to a changing climate.

OPTimising FOrest management decisions for a low-carbon, climate resilient future in Europe (**OptFor-EU**):

- Provide an improved characterisation of the Forest-Climate Nexus and FES.
- Utilise end-user focused process modelling.
- Empower forest end-users to make informed decisions to enhance forest resilience and decarbonisation.
- Provide a novel DSS service.
- Bridging different EU strategic priorities, robust science, and stakeholders in the forest and forest-based sectors.

Restoration of wetland complexes as life supporting systems in the Danube Basin (**Restore4Life**):

- Develop a Restore4Life Wetland Restoration Decision Support System.
- Empower stakeholders and the community.
- Support local revenue and business activities in restored ecosystems.
- Promote and support the implementation of holistic wetland restoration solutions.



**Project duration:** 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2027

**Keywords:** biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem services, natural capital accounting, evidence-based decision-making, transformative change

**Project coordinator:** Prof. Dr. Benjamin Burkhard, Leibniz University Hannover (LUH), Institute of Physical Geography and Landscape Ecology

[burkhard@phygeo.uni-hannover.de](mailto:burkhard@phygeo.uni-hannover.de)

## PROJECT PARTNERS

-  Leibniz University Hannover
-  Stichting Capitals Coalition
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