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## ROMANIA

### Environmental Emergency Rehabilitation

#### Disaster Context

Permissive enforcement of legislation is a weak point in Romania's disaster preparedness. Companies that do not comply with existing norms for the prevention of pollution and environmental accidents are rarely sanctioned. Environmental accidents and disasters combined with polluting industries and limited resources are a grave concern. The situation requires multi-disciplinary expertise and physical and financial resources that could not feasibly be addressed by one single institution. The cooperation and involvement of government agencies, international partners and donors with access to an even larger range of experts and resources are critical for the improvement of the overall disaster preparedness of the country.

#### Projects

Environmental Emergency Rehabilitation Coordination Project (ROM/99/009)

#### Sectors

- Emergency preparedness
- Capacity-building through training
- Support in emergency situations
- Support to mitigation programmes
- Public awareness campaigns
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Coordination

#### Funding

UNDP allocated a total of \$120,000 – \$100,000 from BCPR and \$20,000 from UNDP Romania.

#### Partnerships

- Ministry of Waters and Environment Protection
- Civil Protection Command
- National Company "Romanian Waters"
- UN agencies
- Donors

#### Programme Activities

The emergency coordination project aimed to assist the Romanian Government in developing a coordination mechanism for environmental rehabilitation in order to ensure internationally funded emergency rehabilitation programmes are complementary, effective and accountable. The first phase of the project consisted of formulating a detailed action plan revised by the Government and international stakeholders. The second phase focused on organizing a series of workshops to bring the stakeholders together to agree on priorities, activities and monitoring of results, and on concluding agreed ecological rehabilitation and restoration projects.

Environmental Emergency Rehabilitation Co-ordination provided three important inputs:

- A monthly information report on what donors were doing – a coordinating role that was very much appreciated by the Government;
- Two workshops in which both international and national experts participated, and which led to many agreements being reached on how to avoid future similar problems;
- The provision of equipment to test the level of contamination of water in three laboratories of the country (Cluj, Satu Mare and Baia Mare).

The project focused attention to 48 "hot spots" in northern Romania where environmental disasters could take place, and that neither the

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Government nor the private sector were prepared for such eventualities. This has now led to a greater awareness regarding such potential problems and greater insistence by the Government for compliance with the standards set by Romanian environmental legislation. Equally, this led to a government request for UNDP/ERD assistance for institutional strengthening of the relevant government institutions.

