



15

Questions  
about Orhei  
National Park



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

The booklet was developed under the Awareness Raising and Information Program on biodiversity conservation for Orhei region as part of the UNDP project “Strengthening the institutional capacity and representativeness of the Protected Area System in Moldova”, funded by the Global Environment Facility.

The purpose of the booklet is to answer the most common 15 questions about Orhei National Park.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views of the United Nations Development Programme in Moldova and other international organizations involved in the project.

Author: AO “ProRuralInvest”

Photo: Alecu Renita, [www.sxc.hu](http://www.sxc.hu)

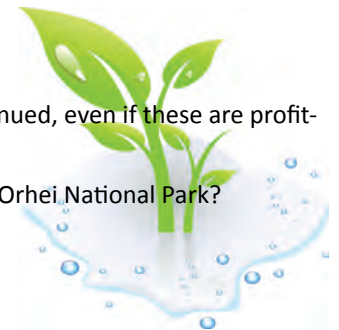
Design and layout: Mancas Mihail

15 Questions about Orhei National Park

Copyright © 2010-2011 UNDP Moldova

# CONTENTS

1. What are the protected areas?
2. What are National Parks?
3. What are the zones of National Parks?
4. Where is Orhei National Park located?
5. What are the main values of Orhei National Park?
6. What are the benefits of Orhei National Park to the community?
7. May other products found in the areas located within Orhei National Park (mushrooms, medicinal herbs) be cultivated and harvested?
8. May the wood from the forest located in Orhei National Park be used?
9. May livestock growing activities be carried out within Orhei National Park?
10. What regime is applied to tourism units operating within Orhei National Park?
11. What hunting regime is applied in Orhei National Park?
12. What are my rights as an owner or user of land located within Orhei National Park?
13. May the activities carried out before the inclusion of land in Orhei National Park be continued, even if these are profit-oriented?
14. Who will check the presence of species or habitats that motivate the inclusion of land in Orhei National Park?
15. Who will verify how I explore the land belonging to the National Park?



# 1 What are the protected areas?

Protected areas are clearly defined geographical areas, recognized, approved and managed under the legal acts or other effective means, for the purpose of achieving long-term conservation of nature and of environment services and associated cultural values.

Protected areas are classified into categories according to the classification of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which are spread throughout the world and are taken as a reference in any debate on protected areas.

The Law on Protected Areas of the Republic of Moldova establishes 12 categories of protected areas, including seven national level categories (corresponding to I-V categories defined by the IUCN rules), three national categories not related to IUCN and two special categories established by specific international conventions.

The establishment or expansion of a protected

area in a given territory suggests that the current ecological and recreational value of the area has the highest priority for the country.



# 2 What are National Parks?

When we hear the word “National Park”, many of us think of administration, forester, license, inspector, prohibitions, limitations and even fenced area. But this is not entirely true!

National parks (in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Moldova) are the protected natural areas aimed to ensure the protection and preservation of natural and landscape elements, where the interaction of human activities and nature over time has created a distinct area, with landscape, natural and cultural values of particular importance.

In other words, “National Park” is an area of great beauty with wild animals and plants, a territory that is under special protection because of the natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources located there, resources that have a high ecologic, economic, social and touristic value for the country.

National parks management aims to maintain the

harmonious interaction of people with the nature by preserving nature and landscape, promoting the preservation of traditional utilizations of land and traditional culture of the local population. It also provides the people with recreation and tourism opportunities and encourages scientific activities.



# 3 What are the zones of national parks?

The zoning of national parks is conducted in accordance with the Law on State Protected Areas Fund (1998). According to this law, 4 areas are distinguished:

**Zone A**, strict protection zone (core) includes natural ecosystems where no economic and recreational activities are allowed. Only the scientific research approved by the Technical and Scientific Board and accepted by the central environment authority is allowed.

**Zone B**, protection zone: delimited for protection of species, habitats and natural processes by a limited management, while offering sightseeing and recreation opportunities (e.g. trails for tourists, landscaped places for bonfires, etc.). Zone B can be divided into sub-zones:

Zone B1: Area of intervention strictly related to the environmental reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged areas;

zone B2: Area with limited natural resources management, where the use of natural resources

is allowed, even for economic purposes, but using methodologies and conservation methods (e.g. forest areas should not only focus on maintaining forest type but take into account the integral maintenance of the entire ecosystem).

**Zone C**, for services and infrastructure, designed for long-term recreation. It is allowed to place campgrounds, hotels, motels, glades for bivouacs, pensions, excursion offices, information centers, catering establishments, commercial and socio-cultural support centers in these areas;

**Zone D**, sustainable economic development areas, where economic activities which do not contradict the objective of national park management are allowed, namely the growth of traditional agricultural plants, using biological methods of pest control, applying the fertilizer in strict accordance with technology rules and sanitary security rules, operation of various units based on the use of clean technologies, observing environmental regulations.

# 4 Where is Orhei National Park located?

- The territory where Orhei National Park is expected to be created is located in the center of the country, 46 km north of the capital Chisinau.
- 
- The projected area of the park is 33,844 ha, including 18,551.4 hectares of forest belonging to Orhei and Calarasi forestry enterprises.
- 
- The park itself will incorporate 18 villages located in 4 districts:
- 12 villages in Orhei district: Morozeni, Ghetlova, Putintei, Neaculaieuca, Vatici, Donici, Telescu, Seliste, Peresecina, Ivancea, Pohorniceni, Trebujeni.
- 3 villages in Straseni district: Tiganesti, Codreanca, Romanesti.
- 2 villages in Calarasi district: Bravicea and Saseni.
- 1 village in Criuleni: Mascauti.

# 5 What are the main values of Orhei National park?

## Natural values

Orhei National Park Area is located in Codri forested plateaus, in the central part of Moldova, with deciduous forests typical for the central area of Europe. The main species growing here include durmast, oak, hornbeam, lime, ash, cherry, maple and so on, with a mean age of over 50 years.

*Floristic diversity:* 700 species of vascular plants, of which 51 rare plant species and a species listed in the Annex to Berne Convention, as well as 26 species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova.

A particular scientific interest and a great value are characteristic to rare relict species of different ages, including typical relics: figworts (*Scrophularia vernalis* L.), bladder nut (*Staphylea pinnata* L.), and *Dentaria quinquefolia* Bieb.), Old man's beard (*Vitalba Clematis* L.), male fern (*Dryop-Teri filix-mas* (L.) Scott), brittle bladderfern (*Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh.), wild sunflower (*Doronicum Hungaricum* Reichenb.

Fil.), Nightshade (*Scopolia Carniola* Jacq.), perennial honesty (*Lunaria rediviva* L.), lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus* L.), arum (*Arum Oriental* Bieb.), Asparagus (*Asparagus verticillatus* L.)

An endemic species should also be noted here – the Moldovan thymus (*Thymus moldavicus* Klok. Schost et.), identified in Trebujeni protected area.





Associations, whose habitats are protected at European level.

*Aceri tatarico-Quercetum roboris*; *As. Salicetum triandrae*; *As. Salicetum albae* Issler; *As. Pruno spinosae-Crataegetum*; *As. Agrostietum stoloniferae*; *As. Scirpo-Phragmitetum*; *As. Typhaetum angustifoliae-latifoliae*.

*Faunal diversity*: the area is permanently or temporarily inhabited by 11 species of amphibians, 10 species of reptiles, 109 species of birds and 41 species of mammals including, the rare:

*Reptiles and Amphibians*: common frog (*Rana temporaria* L.), agile frog (*Rana dalmatina* B.), common spadefoot (*Pelobates fuscus* Laur), pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis* L.), common viper (*Vipera berus* L.), Aesculapian snake (*Elaphe longissima* L.).

*Birds*: Booted eagle (*Hieraetus pennatus* Gm.), stock dove (*Columba oenas* L.), the black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius* L.) and the common rock thrush (*Monticola saxatilis* L.).

*Mammals*: The European pine Marten (*Martes martes* L.), the bicolored shrew (*Crocidura leucodon* L.) and the wildcat (*Felis silvestris* L.).

*Protected Areas within the National Park:*

Landscape reservations - Trebujeni (500 ha) and Tiganesti (680 ha).

Resources reservations in Ivancea village (4 hectares).

Natural Monuments - The site of vertebrate fossils in Pocsesti village (2 ha), and 7 secular trees.

Monuments of landscape architecture – the park in Ivancea village (3 hectares).

Protected areas in the protected zone of the National Park:

Natural forest reservations in Cobaleni (33.5 ha) and Vascauti (24 ha)

Pohrebene landscape reservations (1049 ha)

Monuments of nature – the reef on the bank of Raut river, Piatra village, the Mingla rock, Piatra village (3 hectares), Orhei gorge (100 ha).



### ***Economic values***

The localities within the area of Orhei National Park and the protection zone have the main entrepreneurial and industrial potential in the district: 8 wineries and bottling units, a large number of commercial units. Also, five crushed stone and sand quarries and two mines are operating here, cutting limestone blocks.

There are both reserves to extract limestone, sand deposits, which can be exploited in industry, and reserves of clay for brick manufacture.

### **Cultural values**

An impressive number of cultural sites have been discovered in Orhei National Park, such as dozens of ancient archaeological sites, a city of the Golden Horde Tatar, a Moldavian medieval town fortified with a stone fortress. Also, one of the oldest parish churches in Moldova “St. Dimitrie” (Orhei), 5 monasteries, one of which of rock, four nineteenth-century aristocratic mansions are located here. The craftsmen living in this area are known for their particular style of decorating houses with flowers and stone columns.

A number of ethno cultural groups and ensembles are active in the region, of which 31 are model type groups, specializing in egg decoration, decorative woodworking, lacing art, embroidery art, fabrics, knitting in vegetable fiber, manufacturing of musical instruments, stone carving etc.

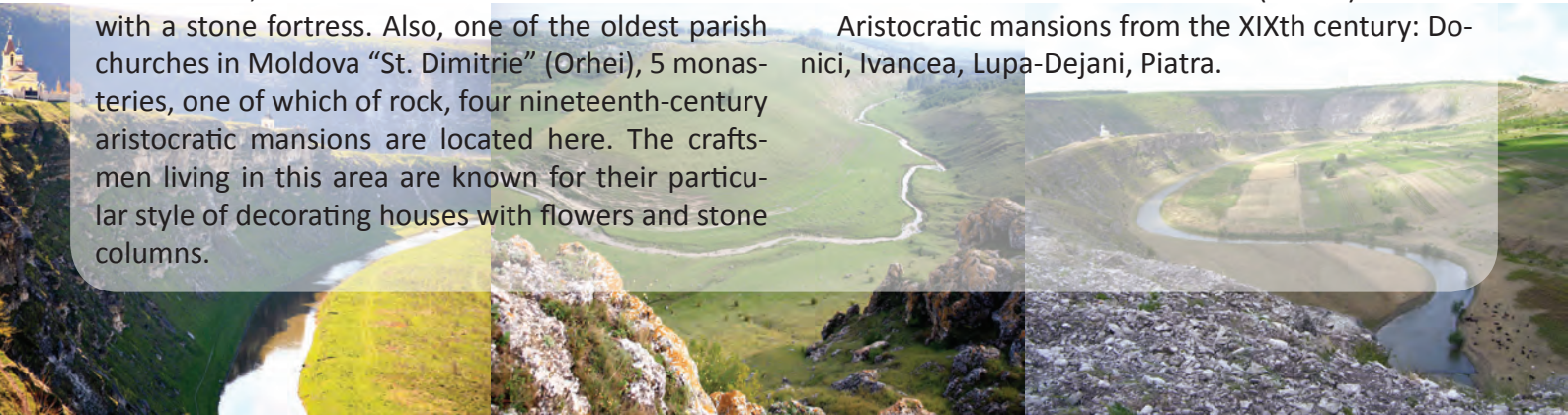
The main monuments of history, architecture and culture in the area Orhei National Park are:

Archaeological sites: ancient - Trebujeni (fortresses and earth walls of a defensive system) medieval - Lucaseuca (annular fortress, Xth century), Trebujeni (Tatar fortress Sehr al Geadid, XIII century).

Monasteries: Butuceni, Curchi, Hirova, Tabara, Tigănești.

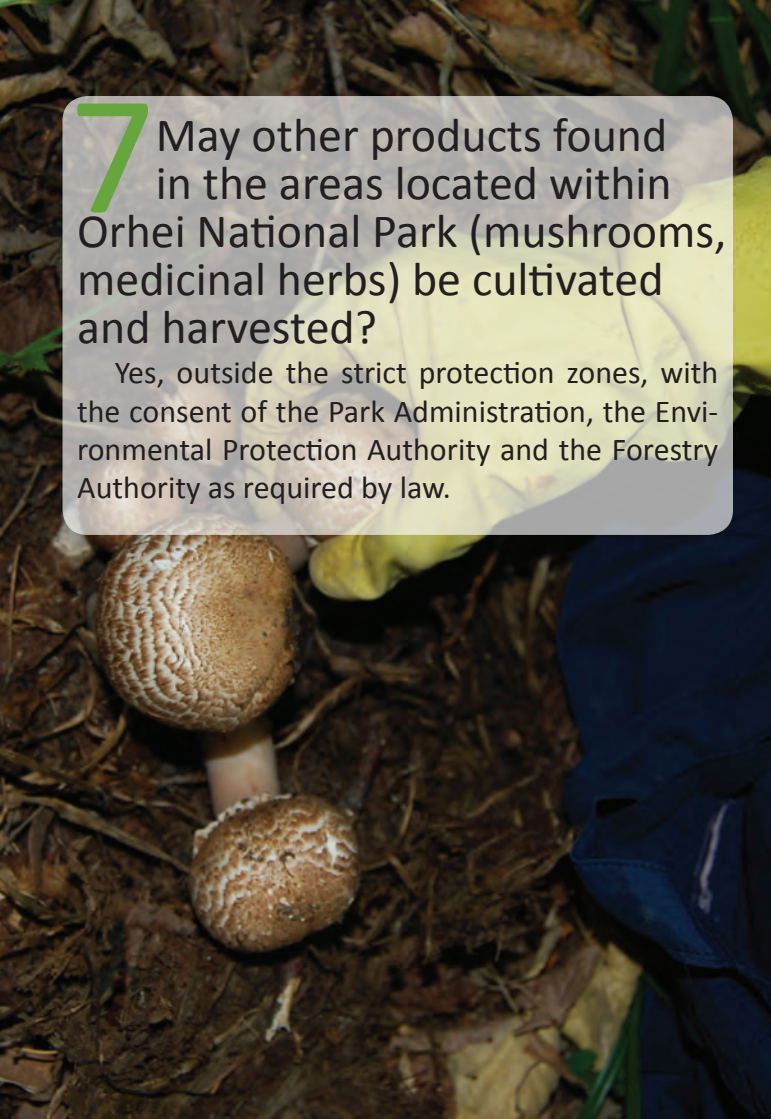
Museums: Museum of Popular Art (Ivancea), House-museum “Alexander Donici” (Donici).

Aristocratic mansions from the XIXth century: Donici, Ivancea, Lupa-Dejani, Piatra.



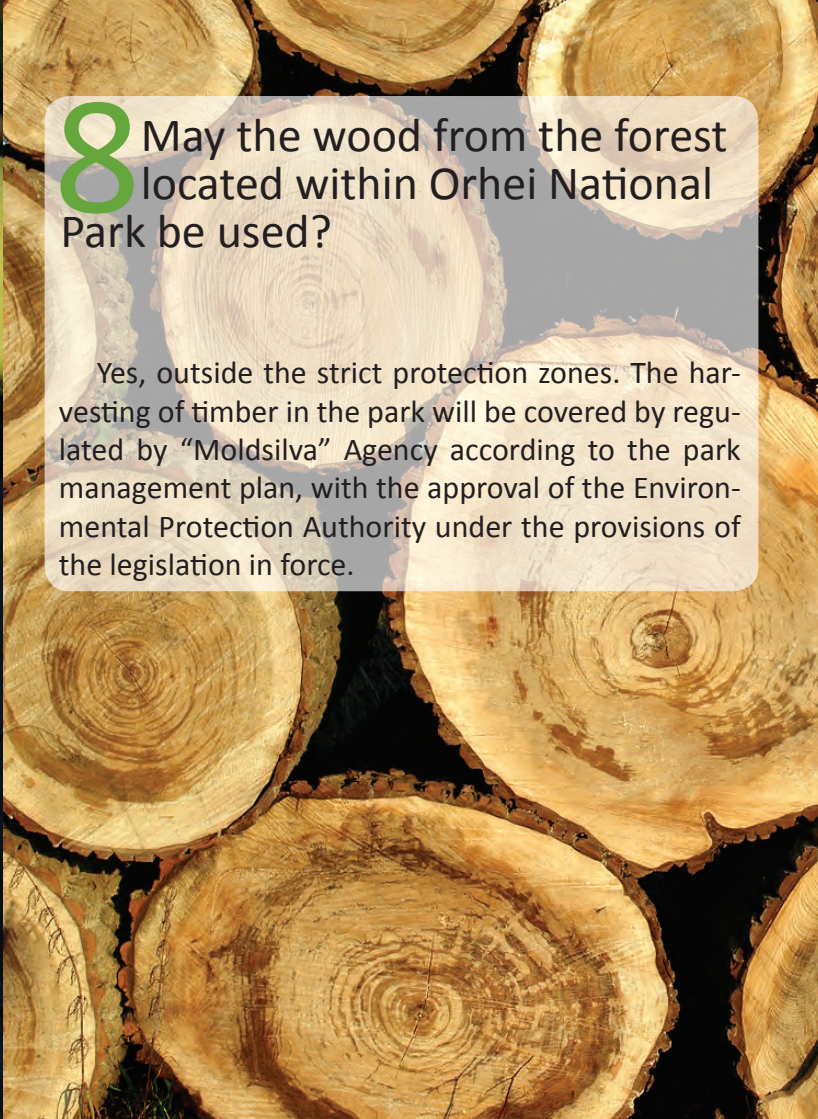
# 6 What are the benefits of Orhei National Park to the community?

- The protected area regime established by creating Orhei National Park will ensure the maintenance and improvement of the quality of ecosystem services: crop pollination, preservation of genetic diversity, flood and storm protection, water filtration and purification, carbon emission reduction and recreation.
- Labeling of products and crafts as originating from a national park may could increase the value on domestic and foreign markets. Thus, creation of new high quality local products will help farmers get special prices for products, thus increasing the standard of living in local communities.
- The administration of the National Park will monitor compliance with environmental legislation in its territory.
- The National Park will make the area more attractive to foreign funds for environmental protection. This will increase the possibility of participation in the research projects in the area of natural resources, environmental protection, greening of slopes subject to erosion, planting forest protection strips, sanitation of rivers and water basins etc.
- Possibility to access funds for the development of General Urban Plans for localities within the National Park.
- The possibility of obtaining additional revenue from ecotourism development, creating tourism and ecotourism trails, expanding the “Wine Road” track and opening new accommodation units in the area of Orhei National Park.
- Promoting measures for the rehabilitation of cultural monuments involving foreign donors and local investors.
- Possibility of attracting folk festivals and other international cultural activities.
- Preservation of the natural and cultural heritage for future generations.




**7** May other products found in the areas located within Orhei National Park (mushrooms, medicinal herbs) be cultivated and harvested?

Yes, outside the strict protection zones, with the consent of the Park Administration, the Environmental Protection Authority and the Forestry Authority as required by law.




**8** May the wood from the forest located within Orhei National Park be used?

Yes, outside the strict protection zones. The harvesting of timber in the park will be covered by regulated by "Moldsilva" Agency according to the park management plan, with the approval of the Environmental Protection Authority under the provisions of the legislation in force.

A herd of sheep with thick, brown wool is grazing in a grassy field. The background shows trees and a bright sky.

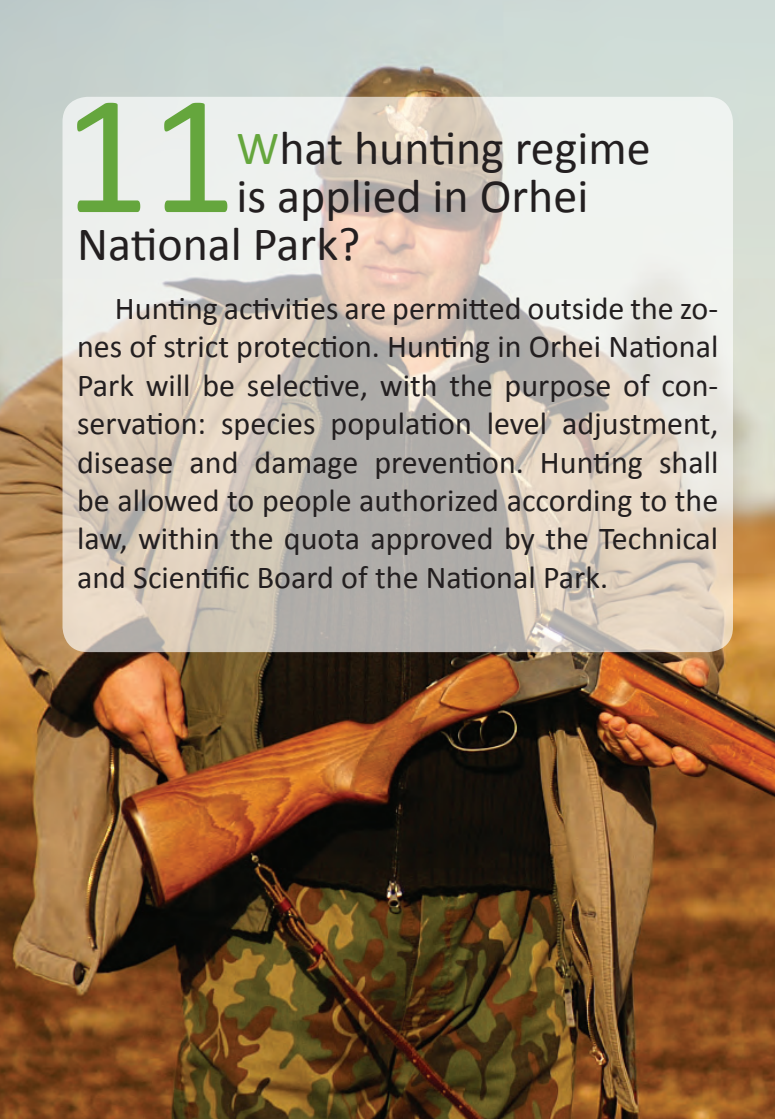
## 9 May livestock growing activity be carried out in Orhei National Park?

Livestock growing activities cannot be stopped! Location of herds, use for lawns for mowing and/or grazing can be conducted based on the proposal of municipalities, on the areas, in the periods and by the staff approved by Park Administration and set in the management plan developed jointly with the community and in accordance with the legislation in force.

A stone-paved area with a thatched roof structure in the background. The structure is made of woven reeds or straw. There are trees and a blue building in the background.

## 10 What regime is applied to tourism units operating in Orhei National Park?


Activities aimed to improve the recreational infrastructure will be supported by attracting investments following the provisions of the national park management plan for recreational activities, sports, education and exploration of the natural sites of tourist interest.



# 11

What hunting regime is applied in Orhei National Park?

Hunting activities are permitted outside the zones of strict protection. Hunting in Orhei National Park will be selective, with the purpose of conservation: species population level adjustment, disease and damage prevention. Hunting shall be allowed to people authorized according to the law, within the quota approved by the Technical and Scientific Board of the National Park.

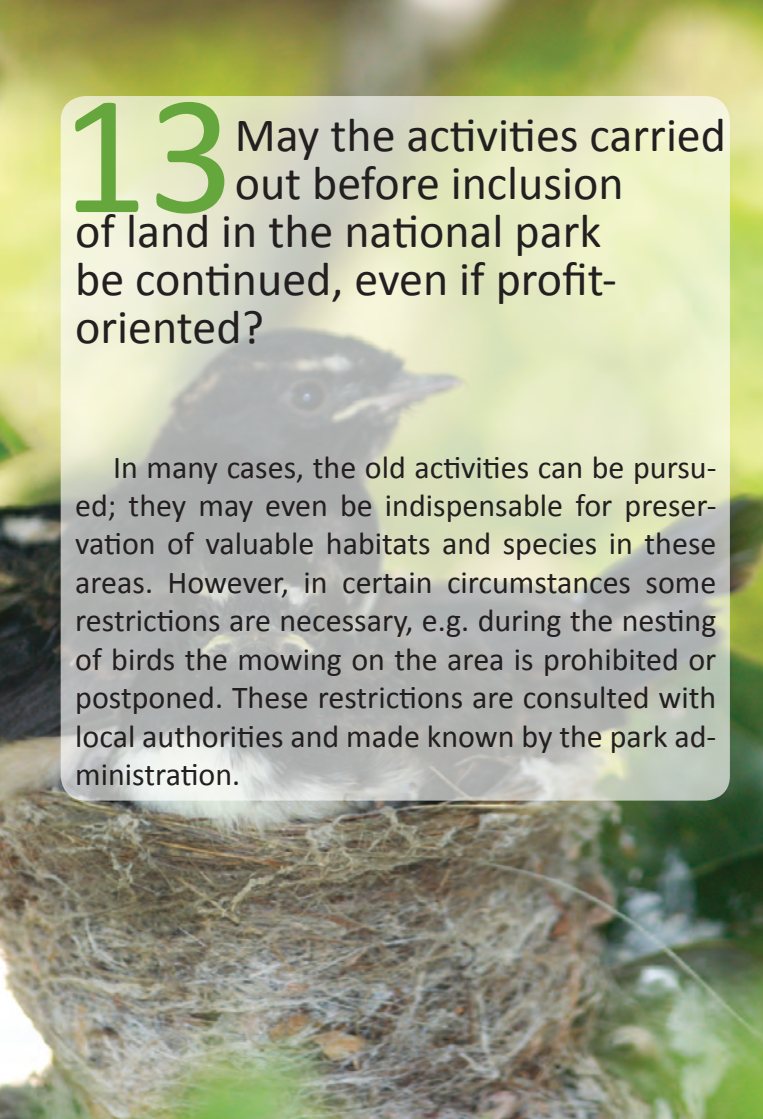


# 12

What are my rights as an owner or user of land located within Orhei National Park?

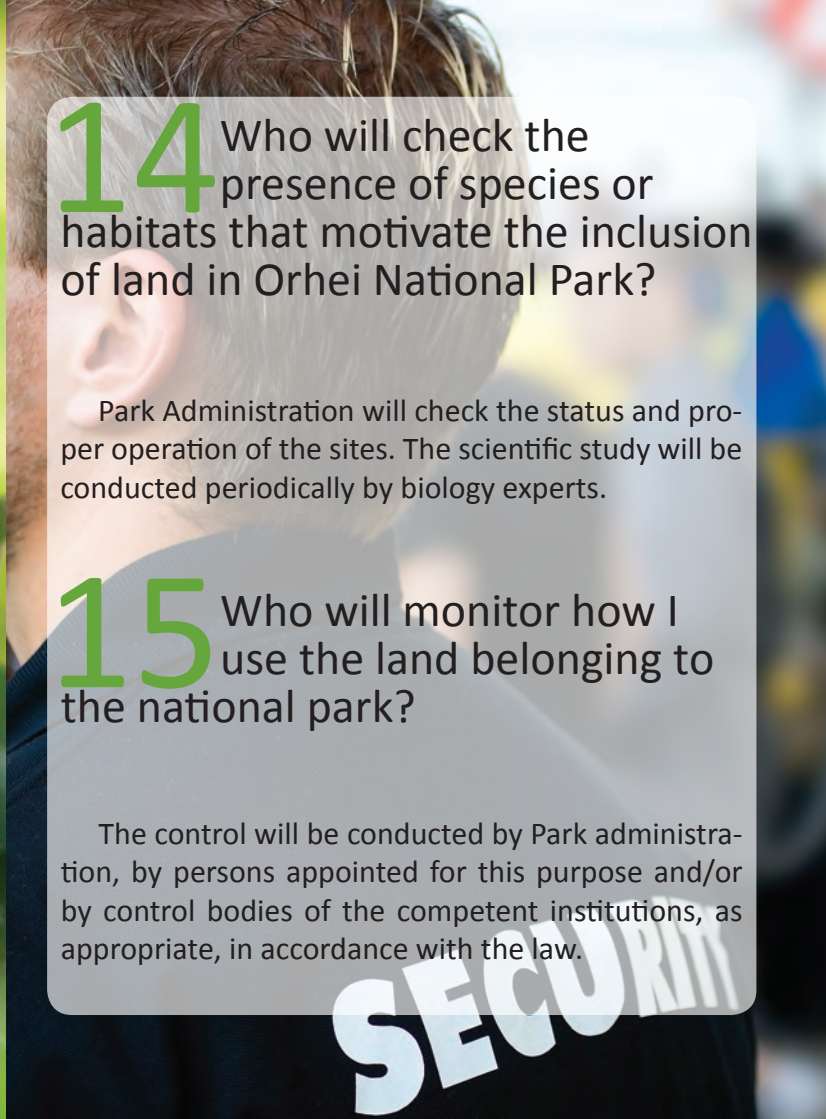
The most fundamental right of every owner of land within the national park is the active participation in decision making on the use of natural resources, planning etc, through the Advisory Council.

Holding of land, including private land in the national park does not hinder the ownership right to it.



**13** May the activities carried out before inclusion of land in the national park be continued, even if profit-oriented?

In many cases, the old activities can be pursued; they may even be indispensable for preservation of valuable habitats and species in these areas. However, in certain circumstances some restrictions are necessary, e.g. during the nesting of birds the mowing on the area is prohibited or postponed. These restrictions are consulted with local authorities and made known by the park administration.



**14** Who will check the presence of species or habitats that motivate the inclusion of land in Orhei National Park?

Park Administration will check the status and proper operation of the sites. The scientific study will be conducted periodically by biology experts.

**15** Who will monitor how I use the land belonging to the national park?

The control will be conducted by Park administration, by persons appointed for this purpose and/or by control bodies of the competent institutions, as appropriate, in accordance with the law.

**SECURITY**

# About the Project

## **Project UNDP/GEF “Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova**

The Protected Area System (PAS) of Moldova is not uniformly distributed in the landscape and there are substantial gaps, particularly in terms of steppe habitats, that need to be addressed to ensure the adequate representation of the main types of ecosystems. Protected areas are also highly fragmented and are not achieving the conservation objectives for landscape-scale ecological processes. The 4 years project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) aims to improve the representativity and coverage of the Protected Area System in Moldova and to build the capacity of Protected Area institutions to more effectively establish and administer a representative system of protected areas (PAs). In the Orhei district the establishment of the first National Park in Moldova will be piloted.

### **Objectives:**

- Develop an enabling framework for the expansion of the PAS to include under-represented ecosystems;
- Improve representativity and coverage of the PAS;
- Strengthen capacity to effectively manage a more representative PAS.

### **Benefits expected:**

- Protected areas evaluated, boundaries reviewed and defined, mapped in GIS (Geographical Information System) format and registered at the relevant territorial cadastral office;
  - The Strategy and Action Plan for rationalization, consolidation and expansion of the Protected Area system developed;
  - First National Park in Moldova established (including management and financial plan);



- All protected areas in the PAS are delegated to the appropriate government protected area agency/ies.
- Operational guidelines for protected areas developed.
- Operational capacity of the institutions responsible for protected area management strengthened.
- Greater awareness among general public about benefits of biodiversity conservation and heritage features.

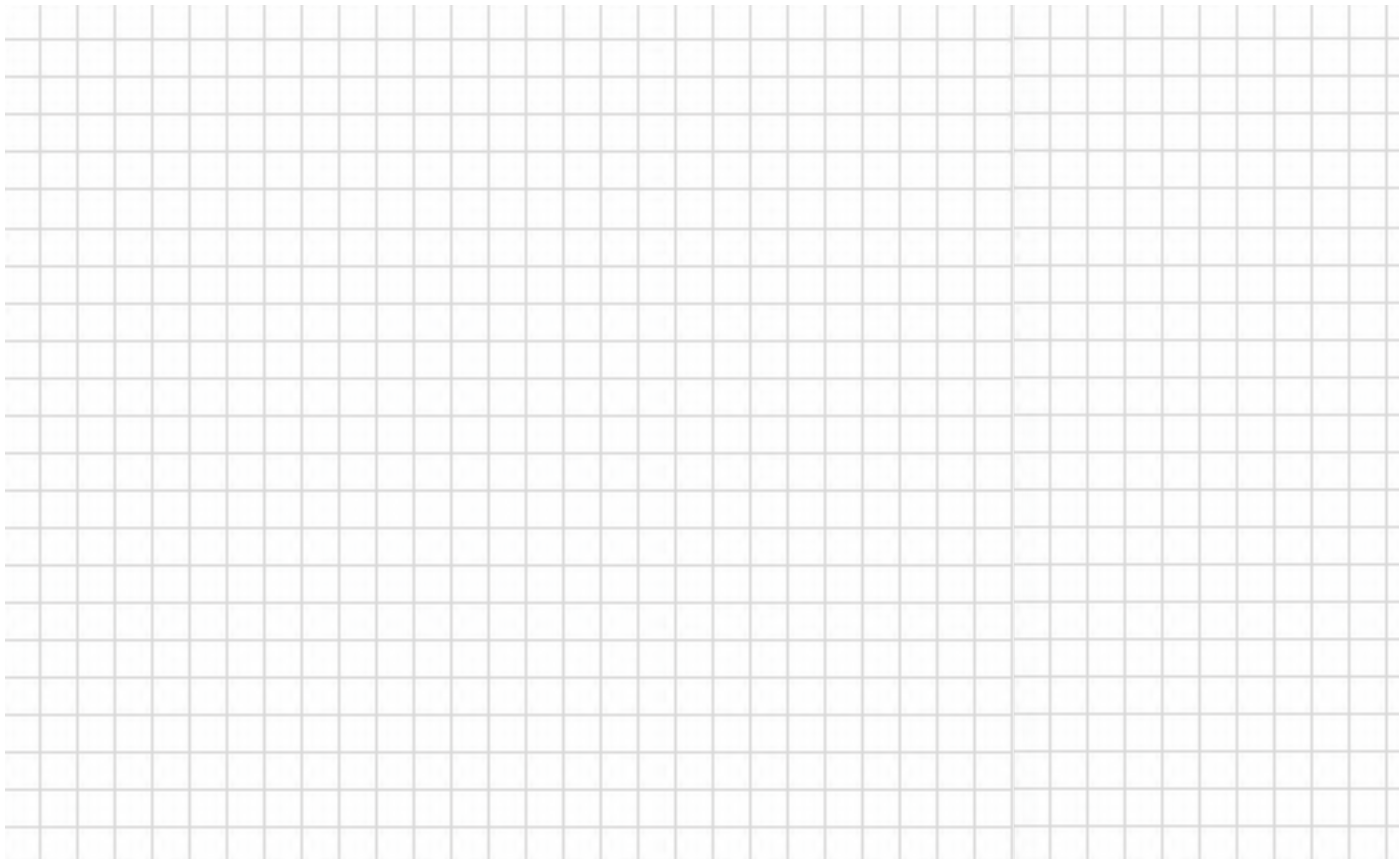
**Public awareness:**

A series of public education and awareness campaigns are planned upon piloting the first National Park in Orhei aimed at showcasing the values and benefits of the conservation of the areas biodiversity and heritage features. These will include talks, presentations, exhibits, clean-up programs and guided day walks in Orhei local communities and primary and secondary schools. Also experiential learning programs will be facilitated in natural areas surrounding Orhei (camping, tree-planting, removing invasive plants, testing organic agricultural technologies, hiking etc.)

**Partners:**

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Forest Agency “Moldsilva”, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Local Authorities, Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

## Note



## Note



## Tourist map of the Orhei National Park

