



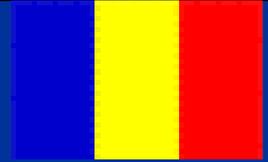
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## Modern management practices for the oldest mountains in Romania

On 16 November 2005, a new UNDP/GEF initiative for Macin Mountains National Park was launched in Tulcea, in the presence of Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Cristian Apostol, Director of the National Forest Administration, Mr. Gheorghe Bunduc, President of the Tulcea County Council and important local stakeholders.

Macin Mountains are also known as the Hercinian Mountains – the oldest mountains in Romania. They rise out of the Danube Delta and represent one of Europe's most outstanding natural region. Their uniqueness came from a combination of geological character and biogeographical location. Macin Mountains support a large number of endangered species as well as ecosystems characteristic of the Balkan-Pontic steppe and the sub-Mediterranean and Balkanic forest.

In her key note address, Ms. Jung explained: "Many of you who work and live in this area may take its beautiful and unique landscape for granted. Unfortunately, they are not going to remain unspoiled if local communities do not protect and conserve them for their own benefit as well as that of future generations".

Forest and grassland habitat degradation and the loss of rare species to the surrounding landscape are the primary threats to the Macin's biodiversity which is of global significance. Biodiversity conservation in small protected areas is often problematic over the long term, especially as pressures increase in the surrounding landscape.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), has launched this project to demonstrate a landscape-oriented method of managing small protected areas and surrounding landscape, with direct involvement of local communities. Empowering local communities to develop sustainable resource management strategies will lead to environmental, economic and social growth in Macin area while preserving the valuable and unique landscape and traditions.

These ideas were underlined by Mr. Apostol in his key note address: "Using the opportunity created by the UNDP/GEF project, the Park Administration will efficiently cooperate with local authorities and other stakeholders for the environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources".



From left to right: Mr. Gheorghe Bunduc, President of Tulcea County Council, Ms. Soknan Han Jung UN RC/UNDP RR, Mr. Cristian Apostol, Director of National Forest Administration



### Protected species and landscape from Macin National Park

For further information please contact UNDP Romania Environment and Energy Section at [environment.ro@undp.org](mailto:environment.ro@undp.org) or visit the website [www.undp.ro](http://www.undp.ro).