

MANAGEMENT OF THE PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST FROM TIMIȘ COUNTY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NATURAL GRASSLAND HABITATS

Alina Lavinia CĂLUȘERU, Luminița COJOCARIU, M. HORABLAGA,
F.MARIAN, C. BOSTAN, Mădălina IORDACHE

USAMVB Timișoara, Calea Aradului nr. 119
E-mail: lawynia@yahoo.com

Abstract: Until 2011, in the Timiș County there were declared by the M.O. no. 1964/2007 five Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) - 13,21% of the country surface, designated as a result of the implementation Habitats Directive no. 92/43/CEE and five Bird Special Protected Areas declared by the Government Decision no. 1284/2007 regarding the declaration of special protected areas, as a result of the implementation Birds Directive no. 79/409/EEC (modified and completed). Partially, some of these sites are superposed, being designated both as SAC and SPA, and a part of them is superposed too over the protected natural areas of national interest (national parks, natural parks and reservations). The management of the special areas of conservation necessitates appropriate plans of management, specific to the designated sites or integrated within other management plans and legal, administrative or contractual measures with the purpose to avoid the deterioration of the natural habitats and species habitats, as well as the disturbance of the species for which the areas were designated (3). Within the sites Natura 2000 declared in the Timiș County by the order no. 1964/2007, with partial distribution at county level, there were identified the following natural grassland habitats of community interest

(1): 6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels; 6440 - Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the *Cnidion dubii*; 40A0* - 6510 - Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*); Subcontinental peri-Pannonic shrub; 1530* - Pannonic salt steppes and salt marshes. As can be observed, the sites Natura 2000 designated in Timiș County, also have as protection object 2 priority natural grassland habitats, meaning natural habitats in danger of disappearing, for whose conservation the European Community has a special responsibility, because of their reduced areas on the territory of European Union. Considering that national legislation in the field of biodiversity, which transposed the stipulations of the European legislation in the field, established that administration of the protected natural areas must assure the favourable conservation status and the sustainable management of the natural habitats for which they were designated, fact that requires the nomination of a responsible person or entity, by this present paper it is realised a situation concerning the state of putting in custody of the protected natural areas of community interest from Timiș County and the achievement of their management plans and administration regulations.

Key words: grasslands, natural habitats, priority grassland habitats, administration, management plan, administration regulation.

INTRODUCTION

Romania, as a Member State of the European Union, has the obligation to keep the community law. In order to fulfil this obligation, Romania transposed the stipulations of the Directive 92/43/EEC (modified and completed) regarding the conservation of natural habitats and wild species of flora and fauna. The main national normative document which assures the implement of this Directive is O.U.G. no. 57/2007 regarding the regime of the protected natural areas, conservation of the natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna, *modified and completed by the Urgency Ordinance of Government no. 154/2008*. The Habitats Directive comprises a series of requirements for the Member States concerning the implementation of conservation measures for the habitats and species of community interest [2].

The purpose of this normative act is enunciated in the art. 2, and it consist of “conservation guarantee and sustainable utilization of the natural patrimony, objective of public major interest and fundamental component of the national strategy of sustainable development” (3).

Achieving this goal requires at least realizing few essential steps:

- Putting into custody or administration of the protected natural area, according to the legislation;
- Elaboration, by the nominated custodian or administrator, by specialized staff, of the management plan and administration regulation of the protected natural area;
- Implementation of the management plan and administration regulation of the protected natural area;
- Periodical reviewing of these, based on field studies and observations, on the threats and vulnerabilities identified during site management;
- Permanent collaboration with the public authorities with competence in the field of environment protection, with local public authority, with local communities;
- Dissemination of information and results.

According to OUG no. 57/2007, the special protected areas mean those protected natural areas of community interest which have as goals to conserve, to maintain and, if necessary, to re-establish into a favourable conservation state the natural habitats and/or the species populations for which the site was designated.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The main materials used in elaboration of the present paper were: the national and community in force legislative documents in the field of nature protection and ecological biodiversity, the strategies elaborated by the central public authority in the field of environment protection, the situation of the Natura 2000 sites put into administration respectively given in custody, and also the state concerning the elaboration of regulations, management plans for their administration. The used method was the comparative analysis of these legislative documents, with the adopted strategies and solutions in order to establish the transposing degree and the conservation stage, respectively the degradation prevention of the grassland natural habitats from the protected natural areas of community interest from Timiș County.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The sites Natura 2000 are administrated according to the stipulations of the Ministry Order of Environment and Forestry no. 1948/2010 regarding the approval of the Management methodology for the protected natural areas which necessitate management structures and of the Methodology of Custody Assignment of the protected natural areas which don't necessitate management structures.

Starting with the year of 2010 until present, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry organized 3 sessions of custody assignment of the protected natural areas.

Among the sites integrally or partially designated on the territory of Timiș County, until present there were put in custody or administration 4 of the 5 special areas of conservation -SAC (assigned separately or together with other protected natural areas).

According to the information posted on the official site of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the special areas of conservation (SAC) existing partially or integrally in Timiș County, were put in administration or custody as following:

- ROSCI0108 „Lunca Mureșului Inferior” (Meadow of the Inferior Mureș River)–
administrator National Administration of Forests – Romsilva- Forest Direction Arad -

Natural Park Lunca Mureşului. Put in custody together with RO SPA 0069 „Lunca Mureşului Inferior” (Meadow of the Inferior Mureş River).

- RO SCI0064 „Defileul Mureşului Inferior” (Gorge of the Inferior Mureş River) – **custodian West University „Vasile Goldiș Arad.** The custody was attributed together with the site NATURA 2000 — ROSPA0029 Defileul Mureşului Inferior- Dealurile Lipovei” (Gorge of the Inferior Mureş River – Hills of Lipova).

- ROSCI0109 „Lunca Timișului”(Meadow of Timiș) - **custodian University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Banat - Timișoara.** It was put in custody together with ROSPA0095 Pădurea Macedonia (Forest Macedonia), **custodian ARPM Timișoara.**

- ROSCI0115 “Mlaștina Satchinez” (Satchinez Swamp) **custodian – Museum of Banat Timișoara.**

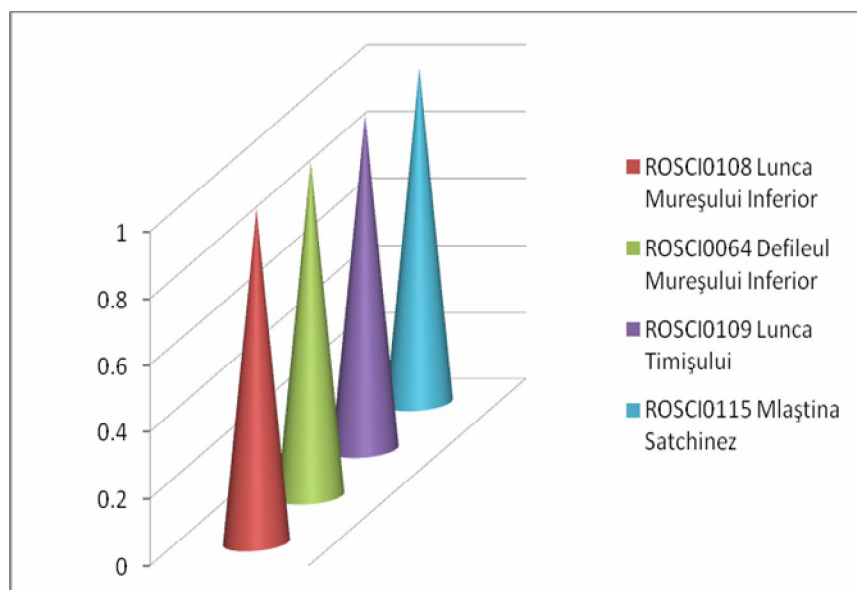


Fig.1 Special areas of conservation (SAC) partially or integrally on the territory of Timiș County, put into administration or custody

According to the stipulations enunciated by M.O. no. 1948/2010 regarding the approval of the Management methodology for the protected natural areas which necessitate management structures and of the Methodology of Custody Assignment of the protected natural areas which don't necessitate management structures, for the sites Natura 2000 put into administration the management plan must be realized in 2 and the regulation in 9 months since the administration contract was signed. For the protected natural areas given in custody, the management plan must be realized within 1 an, and the regulation within 6 months since the custody convention was signed.

Also, according to the stipulations of OUG no. 57/2007 regarding the regime of the protected natural areas, conservation of the natural habitats, of wild flora and fauna, the management plans and the regulations of the biosphere reservations, national and natural parks are elaborated by their managers, then these will be supervised by the scientific councils, consultative councils of administration and will be approved by Government Decision, at the

proposal of the central public authority for environment protection; for the other categories of protected natural areas, the management plans and the regulations are elaborated by their administrators, will be approved by order of the central public authority for environment protection, with the approval of the interested central public authorities.

In conformity with data provided by the National Agency of Environment Protection, the management plans and the regulations concerning the sites Natura 2000 which were put into administration/custody until present, are in different stages of realization by administrator/custodian, respectively stages of analysis by the competent authorities in the field of environment or approval stage by the interested central public authorities.

Until the management plans will be approved, according to the legal stipulations, the administrators of the respective protected natural areas have the obligation to establish a set of conservation measures, which led to maintaining of the favourable conservation state of the habitats.

Examples of adopted conservation measures:

- Complete interdiction of chemical fertilizers and pesticides usage. The invasive plants must be removed using only manual practices (example: repeated mowing of the affected surfaces);
- There is not allowed to use cattle manure rich in nitrogen (poultry and swine wastes);
- Interdiction to exploit any non-renewable mineral resource;
- Possibility to provide deficiency payments to those persons affected by the restrictions imposed by the status of protected area and site Natura 2000 in the areas where these persons develop their agricultural activity (through PNDR).

CONCLUSIONS

Grasslands are an important component of the vegetation in Romania and these include significant areas within the protected natural areas and habitats necessitating a special protection regime.

Considering the especial value under aspect of biodiversity, a stable long-term management is obligatory to be established, both as legislative requirements and as sustainable development of the whole ecosystem, the grasslands being frequently essential for the biodiversity.

As can be observed, putting the special areas of conservation into custody, respectively administration, in proportion by 80% in Timiș County, represents an important step, before elaborate and approve the management plans and the regulations of the protected natural areas, in the terms established by law, and after finalization of this process will be effectively implemented the priority measures and actions enunciated by these, in order to assure a high protection level of the species and habitats within the protected area.

Although within Timiș County the natural grassland habitats are not representative in a significant percent, these should not be ignored, their ecological importance being superior to the size criteria of the surfaces and to the number of the designated habitats, these have both landscape function and maintaining of the appropriate climate for the favourable development and conservation of numerous species of flora and fauna.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. CĂLUȘERU LAVINIA ALINA, COJOCARIU LUMINIȚA. 2010 - "International year of biodiversity" natural protected areas in Timiș county-legal status and route to protection of their habitats, Research journal of Agricultural Science, vol. XXXXII (1) 1-688, Ed. Agroprint, Timișoara, 2010, ISSN 2066-1843, p. 383-390

2. CĂLUȘERU LAVINIA ALINA, COJOCARIU LUMINIȚA , HORABLAGA ADINA, HAMZA STELA, HORABLAGA N. M., TOTH E. Environment legislation applicable in Romania to natural habitats of grasslands, Research journal of Agricultural Science, vol. XXXXII (1) 1-688, Ed. Agroprint, Timișoara, 2010, ISSN 2066-1843, p.378-383
- 3.***. Ordonanța de Urgență nr. 57/20.06.2007 (M.Of. nr. 442/29.06.2007) privind regimul ariilor naturale protejate, conservarea habitatelor naturale, a florei și faunei sălbatice (*modificată și completată de Ordonanța de Urgență a Guvernului nr. 154/12.11.2008 – M.Of. nr. 787/25.11.2008*) (Urgency Ordinance no. 57/20.06.2007 (Official Monitor no. 442/29.06.2007) regarding the regime of the protected natural areas, natural habitat conservation, wild flora and fauna (*modified and completed by the Urgency Ordinance of Government no. 154/12.11.2008 – Official Monitor no. 787/25.11.2008*);
- 4.***. Ordinul Ministrului Mediului și Pădurilor nr. 1948/2010 privind aprobarea Metodologiei de atribuire a administrării ariilor naturale protejate care necesită constituirea de structuri de administrare și a Metodologiei de atribuire a custodiei ariilor naturale protejate care nu necesită constituirea de structuri de administrare (MO No. 1948/2010 regarding the approval of the Management methodology for the protected natural areas which necessitate management structures and of the Methodology of Custody Assignment of the protected natural areas which don't necessitate management structures);
5. ***. www.mmediu.ro, secțiunea Protecția Naturii (Official site of the Ministry of Environmentt and Forestry, section Nature protection)