

## **STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE**

### **1. Basic Information**

Desiree Number: **RO0102.02**  
Title: **Protection and promotion of the Meadows of Mures River**  
Sector: **Environment (EN)**  
Location: **Inferior Meadow of the Mures river, beyond Arad city to the Hungarian border.**

### **2. Objectives**

#### **2.1 Overall Objective**

- Protection of the bio-diversity in the Romania-Hungary border region.

#### **2.2 Purpose of the project**

- Scientific monitoring of a diversified ecosystem.
- Protection the Meadow of the Mures River.
- Implementation of educational and informational programs about nature protection, for the local communities.

#### **2.3 Accession Partnership and NPAA priority**

*AP (medium-term priority):*

- Develop the monitoring and enforcement capacity in particular through decentralisation to environmental protection agencies.

*NPAA (short-term priority):*

- Rehabilitation of ecologically damaged sites and protection of environmentally vulnerable sites with economic potential, including natural sites and areas with tourism potential
- Implementation of the cross-border co-operation projects, through the improvement and development of (...) environmental infrastructure, social and economic development initiatives

#### **2.4 Cross Border Impact**

This program will contribute to the improvement of Romanian – Hungarian good neighbouring relations, recently tensioned due to the ecological accident of Baia-Mare. It will contribute to the development of cross border co-operation in the field of environment.

Moreover, the Koros – Maros National Park in Hungary stops at the Romanian border and therefore does not include the Inferior Meadow of the Mures River, although it is part of the same ecosystem. The monitoring and preservation activities in this area will facilitate a future joint management of the Hungarian and Romanian parts of this ecosystem.

### **3. Description**

#### **3.1 Background and justification**

##### *Background*

The lower basin of Mures River is an area of ecological interest, particularly due to the forestry type of habitats where a number of birdspecies protected species (according to the Birds Directive Convention.79/409/EEC and Bern Convention) can be found.

Important birds species in this area: *Acanthis cannabina*, *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Anas acuta*, *Anas clypeata*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas penelope*, *Anas platyhynchos*, *Anas querquedula*, *Anser albifrons*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Assio flammeus*, *Aythya ferina*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Calidris alpina*, *Calidris minuta*, *Carduelis carduelis*, *Carduelis chloris*, *Chlidonia niger*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Egretta alba*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Emberiza citrinella*, *Erithacus rubecula*, *Falco rubecula*, *Falco columbarius*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Fringilla coelebs*, *Gallinago media*, *Gavia stellata*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Merops apiaster*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Oriolus oriolus*, *Parus major*, *Parus palustris*, *Podiceps griseigena*, *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Podiceps ruficollis*, *Rallus aquaticus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

Moreover, there is an increasing human activity with old human settlements in this area. The density of population has reached high levels. The economic activity includes different kinds of industries, some of them being potential environmental hazards. Natural ecosystems from the Mures River and across the river have to face increased pressure that induces derangement in ecosystem's functioning.

The pollution risk is represented by the agriculture practised in the neighbourhood areas, and sometimes even inside the proposed area, and by the wastewater evacuation from the north-western Industrial Platform of Arad City. These waters are resulting from the food industries and are evacuated after being purged in the wastewater Treatment Plant. The pollution risk may appear in case of dysfunction of the wastewater Treatment Plant.

##### *Justification*

The aim of this project is to assure a sustainable development of the area and to preserve the biological diversity: the situation of accidental pollution will be more efficiently prevented and controlled thanks to the permanent water quality monitoring. An inventory of species and of the specific problems will be elaborated. In the same time, nature tourism will be promoted for this area.

The activities that will be undertaken are linked with Directives 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats) and 79/409/EEC on wild birds.

These objectives correspond to the strategic principles of the regional development as described in the Regional Development Strategy West Border Region.

Moreover, this project is fully in line with the priorities that are indicated in the Joint Programming Document (JPD). The JPD constitutes the general framework for the co-operation between the two countries and was agreed between the Romanian and Hungarian authorities in early 2000. Under the priority n°5 (Environmental protection, water resource management), the eligible measures are:

- Joint actions aiming at the protection of natural resources

- Wildlife protection, preservation of valuable ecosystems

### 3.2 Linked activities

None

### 3.3 Results

- Implementation of a permanent monitoring of the ecosystem
- Protection of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem of the Romanian area next to the Koros-Maros National Park of Hungary
- Opening of a Visitor Centre.

### 3.4 Activities

The present project can be divided into 5 (five) components:

#### ***1- Preparation of the technical specifications and tender documents (0.20 Meuro)***

- Procurement of equipment under *the Monitoring of the ecosystem component (sub-project 2)*.
- Procurement of works (construction and rehabilitation of access to the protected area and installation of enclosing items and construction of the visitors centre) and site supervision under both components *Protection of the area and Creation of a centre for visitors (sub-projects 3 and 4)*.

#### ***2- Monitoring of the ecosystem (0.50 Meuro)***

The monitoring activity of the inferior Meadow of the Mures River will consist in collecting data in order to set-up a database of the following environment components: water, air, soil, fauna, flora and anthropogenic activities for taking decisions regarding the evolution of the area. The results will also be used to elaborate the *Reservation Management Plan*.

Under this component the procurement of the necessary equipment will be financed, such as:

- Database office – hardware and software;
- Monitoring laboratory for water, air and soil – laboratory equipment;
- Biological research laboratory – laboratory equipment;
- Automatic meteorological station (computerised and only for reservations needs)

*The management plan of the reservation is not included in this activity and will be elaborated by the Romanian specialists as a draft during project implementation.*

The area will be protected based on the implementation of the *Reservation Management Plan*.

#### ***3- Protection of the area (0.95 Meuro)***

Under this component the following works/activities will be financed (indicative):

- Construction and rehabilitation of access to the protected area;

- Installation of enclosing against human impacts - fences, hedges, turnpikes, and ditches – in order to avoid disturbing local natural migration of the wild animals;
- A professional pump to assure the constant water level into the Bezdin lake (important protected area)-water took from the Mures River will be commissioned;
- Procurement of personal equipment (uniforms, communication devices, field-observation equipment, camping equipment for field activities);
- 2 water boats, 2 off-roads vehicles, 1 minibus, are very necessary for the activities to be performed and will be purchased from the Romanian co-financing;
- Reconstruction of the 3 existing devices (cross-river ferry) taking into account that the reservation is up to 75 km length and no bridges beyond Arad City to the Hungarian border exist. These devices will assure the link between the two banks of the river for the reservation field personnel, tourists, specialists and local communities.

#### ***4- Creation of a centre for visitors (0.85 Meuro)***

An administrative centre will be built including offices and laboratories for ecosystem monitoring and an informational centre for visitors. This centre will provide for visitor's information access to a database about the reservation, a conference/show room. Bedrooms to be used for administrative staff, researchers and for organised groups according to the possibilities will be also provided.

In optimal conditions the estimate number of visitors is about 7.000-10.000 persons/year. For the project's development period and the first three years, the estimate number is about 4.000-5.000 visitors/year.

There will be no entrance fees charge. The incomes will result from: selling publicity/promotion materials, organised trips under the surveillance of specialised persons, accommodation fees, natural resources trading according to the *Reservation Management Plan*, taxes for laboratory analyses requested by external beneficiaries, organisation of conferences etc.

The incomes realised will constitute a special fund, managed by the National Forest Administration – Forest Directorate Arad and used especially for maintenance and promotion of this protected area.

Also, the additional running costs for this centre will be provided by the National Forest Administration – Forest Directorate Arad.

Under this component, the construction of the building will be financed. The building will have a surface of around 800 m<sup>2</sup> including basement, ground floor and first floor. It will be built according to the local architectural style, using local construction materials, and will consist of two main parts:

- The functional building: 3 offices, 3 laboratories, a conference/show room
- Accommodation facilities: bedrooms, dinning-room, bathrooms, collective bedrooms, and collective bathrooms.

In addition the following items will be built:

- Parking, 3 garages, other buildings;
- Access roads, fences;
- Utilities: water drilling, concrete collecting basin (for wastewater), power supply, and gas heating system.

In addition the following equipment and endowments: furniture, sanitary devices, dining room, laboratory equipment, office equipment will be procured.

#### ***5- Promotion of tourism (0.17 Meuro)***

A programme will be elaborated in order to organise: instruction camps and promotion of the area, and practical periods for training the teachers and the specialists.

Under this component, the following initiatives will be finance (indicative):

- Programme of promotion of the area;
- Organisation of conferences and symposiums, with field observation facilities;
- Informational and educational activities (films projections, folders, brochures etc.);
- Visits of the area in organised groups, accompanied by the specialised personnel;
- Accommodation facilities for tourists and organised groups;
- Visual publicity will be developed as a continuity of the activity during the project;
- Publications and brochures/pliant, films and photographs about reservation and most important inhabitant species.

#### **4. Institutional framework**

The project beneficiary is the National Forest Administration – Forest Directorate Arad (NFA-FDA) which administrates the forests framed into the reservation. NFA is an independent economical body, functioning under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest, being in charge of administration of around 6 million hectares state own forests. NFA is self-financed and operates under the commercial law. Forest Directorate Arad is the local branch of the NFA in Arad county

NFA will be the owner of the assets, will co-finance the project (0.67 MEUR) and will bear the operating costs.

The other main institutions supporting the implementation of the project are:

- The Environmental Protection Inspectorate of Timisoara and the Environmental Protection Inspectorate of Arad will assure the monitoring of environmental legislation applying;
- West University “Vasile Goldis” of Arad;
- Timisoara University - Faculty of Chemistry – Biology - Geography;
- The Administration of Koros-Maros National Park from Hungary and Romanian Waters National Company – SGA Arad will collaborate during the project implementation.

A Project Co-ordination Council will be established taking into account the main stakeholders/supporting institutions will assure the co-ordination of the project development. The president of the Project Co-ordination Council will be the Director of the Forest Directorate Arad. The President of the Council will nominate a manager, charged with the ecological instruction program and the tourism activities developed by this centre. Monitoring of the environmental quality, biological research and other specific activities will be realised by the specialised personnel, nominated by the Co-ordination Council.

The Administration of the Koros-Maros National Park will be, on reciprocity basis, observer in this Co-ordination Council.

## **5. Detailed budget, in MEUR**

<b>Components</b>	<b>Phare Support</b>		<b>Total Phare (= I + IB)</b>	National Co-financing (*)	IFI	<b>Total</b>
	Investment Support	Institution Building				
1- Preparation of the technical specifications and tender documents	0	0.20	0.20	0		<b>0.20</b>
2- Monitoring of the ecosystem	0.50	0	0.50	0		<b>0.50</b>
3- Protection of the area	0.45	0	0.45	0.50		<b>0.95</b>
4- Creation of a centre for visitors	0.85	0	0.85	0		<b>0.85</b>
5- Promotion of tourism and ecological education	0	0	0	0.17		<b>0.17</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.67</b>

(\*) NFD-FDA will provide the co-financing

## **6. Implementation Arrangements**

### **6.1 Implementing Agency**

The Implementing Agency will be the Ministry of Development and Prognosis, through its Cross Border Co-operation Directorate, which will retain overall responsibility for the implementation of the programme, including: approval of tender documents, evaluation criteria, evaluation of offers, signature of contracts, authorisation of invoices. The payments of invoices will be made by the Payments Directorate within the same ministry.

The CBC Directorate also includes a unit for the National Co-ordination of CBC programmes nominated as CBC Programme Co-ordination Unit (CBC - PCU). This unit will liaise with the beneficiary institutions and with the line Ministries to prepare Terms of Reference, tender documents, evaluation criteria, evaluation of offers, negotiation of contracts, invoices for payment etc.

The beneficiary is the National Forest Administration – Forest Directorate Arad.

The local authorities involved in the technical implementation of the project is recommended to be also part of the Project Co-ordination Council as mentioned under point 4.

### **6.2 Non-standard aspects**

There are no “non-standards aspects”. The “Practical Guide to Phare, Ispa and Sapard contract procedures” will strictly be followed.

### **6.3 Contracts**

4 (four) different Phare contracts are foreseen, and their respective values are indicated under point 5.

### **7. Implementation schedule**

Due to the necessary long duration of the monitoring and protection activities in order to reach a sufficient impact, the **disbursement expiry date for this project will be 30 November 2005.**

<b>Start of tendering</b>	<b>Start of project activity</b>	<b>Project completion</b>
December 2001	February 2002	March 2005

### **8. Equal opportunity**

Equal opportunity for men and women to participate in all the components of the project will be ensured.

### **9. Environment**

This is an environmental project aiming to respect nature, leading to its conservation and maintenance, respecting the sustainable development principles.

### **10. Rates of return**

Financial rate of return %: N/A

Financial rate of return %: N/A

Feasibility studies already existing – see annex 4.

### **11. Investment criteria**

#### **11.1. Catalytic effect**

Without Phare assistance, the project would have never taken place due to a lack of funds.

#### **11.2. Co-financing:**

The project is co-financed by the National Forests Administration – Forest Directorate Arad, which will provide 25% of the total cost of the project. The investment realised within this project will remain in National Forests Administration – Forest Directorate Arad property that has the obligation to use them in accordance with the purposes they were purchased.

#### **11.3. Additionality:**

No other financing sources from the private sector or from IFIs were available for financing this project.

**11.4. Project readiness and Size:**

The preliminary studies are completed and the implementation of the project can start according to the implementation chart (Annex 2). The project complies with the 2 MEUR minimum Phare allocation requirement.

**11.5. Sustainability:**

The beneficiary (National Forest Administration – Forest Directorate Arad) will bear the running costs for this project

**11.6. Compliance with state aids provisions**

The project respects the state aids provisions.

**12. Conditionality and sequencing**

- The beneficiary (National Forest Administration – Forest Directorate Arad) will pay the operating costs for the management of the facilities provided through this project.
- The beneficiary (National Forest Administration– Forest Directorate Arad) undertakes to finance any additional costs which may arise in order to ensure timely completion and implementation of this project.

**ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

1. Logical framework matrix
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter
4. Reference to feasibility /pre-feasibility studies.



<b>ANNEX 1 - LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX</b>		Contracting period expires: 30/11/2003	Disbursement period expires: 30/11/2005
<b>Protection and promotion of the Meadows of Mures River</b>		Total budget €2,670,000	PHARE contribution €2,000,000
<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>	<b>Sources of information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of the bio-diversity in the Romania-Hungary border region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• green corridor established, based on the common Romanian-Hungarian management plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the published scientific studies</li> <li>• cooperation agreement between Romania and Hungary (environmental protection field)</li> <li>• the laws regarding the protected area in Romania</li> </ul>	
<b>Project purpose</b>	<b>Indicators of achievements</b>	<b>Sources of information</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific monitoring of a diversified ecosystem</li> <li>• Protection the Meadow of the Mures River</li> <li>• Implementation of educational and informational programs about nature protection, for the local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• database</li> <li>• the existence of the functional framework of the reservation and applying of the management plan</li> <li>• meetings, conferences for the local communities</li> <li>• opening of the Visitors Centre</li> <li>• tourist programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• yearly report regarding the environmental quality</li> <li>• function regulations</li> <li>• management plan of the area</li> <li>• activity report</li> <li>• publications</li> <li>• tourist programs in the area</li> <li>• building delivery documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• data processing</li> <li>• adaptation from the beginning to the ecosystem conditions</li> <li>• informative program</li> <li>• general interest of the local communities</li> </ul>

<b>Results</b>	<b>Indicators of Achievements</b>	<b>Sources of information</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of a permanent monitoring of the ecosystem</li> <li>• protection of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem of the Romanian area next to the Koros-Maros National Park of Hungary</li> <li>• Opening of a visitor centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• periodical monitoring of the environmental quality</li> <li>• rehabilitation of the ecological balance</li> <li>• the function in normal conditions of the Visitors Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitoring program</li> <li>• yearly report of the environmental quality</li> <li>• technical and financial documents of the construction ending</li> </ul>	<p>proper data evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• existence of the other human activities in the area</li> <li>• independent reasons schedule delays</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Means</b>		<b>Assumptions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of the ecosystem</li> <li>• Protection of the area</li> <li>• Creation of a centre for visitors</li> <li>• Promotion of tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• purchase of equipment, technical assistance contract</li> <li>• purchase of equipment, technical assistance contract</li> <li>• build construction, purchase of equipment</li> <li>• purchase of equipment, technical assistance contract</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cooperation with other institutions</li> <li>• good cooperation between the participant institutions</li> <li>• Visitors Center fully established by end 2002</li> <li>• cooperation with other institutions</li> </ul>

**Annex 2 – Detailed implementation chart**

*Protection and promotion of the Meadows of Mures River*

### *Protection and promotion of the Meadows of Mures River*

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### Annex 3 – Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter

#### *Protection and promotion of the Meadows of Mures River*

Components	Cumulative contracting schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)																		Total Phare Allocation	
	2001		2002				2003				2004				2005					
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
1- Preparation of the technical specifications & tender documents			0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.20
2-Monitoring of the ecosystem							0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.50
3- Protection of the area							0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
4- Creation of a centre for visitors							0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85
Total contracting:			0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Components	Cumulative disbursement schedule by quarter in MEUR (planned)																		Total Phare Allocation	
	2001		2002				2003				2004				2005					
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
1- Preparation of the technical specifications & tender documents			0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
2-Monitoring of the ecosystem							0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
3- Protection of the area							0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
4- Creation of a centre for visitors							0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85
Total disbursement:			0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

## **ANNEX 4 - Reference to feasibility/pre-feasibility study**

### **Protection and promotion of the Meadow of Mures River**

#### **1. Natural background of the future reservation**

The future reservation territory will be placed in the Meadow of Mures River, beyond Arad City to the Hungarian border. The dikes and high terraces of the Mures River represent the northern and southern limits.

The Mures River has the characteristics of a plain river watercourse, with a winding flow, that flow on the sand and ooze sediments. In the meadow the soils are generally alluvial and salty, the climate is continental with a low quantity of rainfall, and the prevailing relief is the low meadow, with the altitude limits between 85-95m, the area being easily flooded.

The ecosystem type is one characteristic wetland for southern-eastern of Panonian plan, important nesting and feeding place for a lot of protected birds species according to the International Conventions.

The most important habitat types preserved here are:

- Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition – type vegetation
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*
- *Salix alba* and *Populus alba* galleries

A lot of the plants or animals species that are present in these habitats are preserved according to the Bern Convention and Birds Directive 79/409/EEC. It has been identified until now around 800 plants species and about 1400 animals species (more than 80 species being characteristic for this area). It has been also identified more than 200 birds' species that represent more than 57% from the entire birds' species in Romania.

Until the end of XIXth century this area has kept the initial natural characteristics, later being modified through the embanking and draining works, in order to the regularisation of the water course and for the increasing of the agricultural lands. All these works induced the habitat changes and the decreasing of the lands due to the anthropic impact.

Since 1988, the International Convention regarding the conservation and birds protection (Paris 1902) accepted this area as avifaunistical important area that requested the special conservation statute.

#### **2. Socio-economic context**

The neighbourhood localities are:

On the right bank

- *In Arad County:*
- localities: Pecica, Semlac and Seitin
- towns: Arad and Nadlac

On the left bank

- *in Arad County:*
- localities: Felnac and Secusigiu
- Arad city
- *in Timis County:*
- localities: Periam, Sanpetrul Mare and Cenad
- Sannicolaul Mare

The total population of these localities is 256 000 inhabitants, the Arad city having 189000 inhabitants.

The main economic activities in these localities are (except the Arad City):

- Agriculture and livestock operations
- Small industry (small and medium enterprises)
- Trade
- Oil resources exploitations

### **3. Lands situation**

From territorial-administrative point of view, the protected area will be stretches on the Arad and Timis Counties. The total surface of the future protected area will be about 12.705 ha and will included the lands placed in the major Mures River bed, downstream of Arad city to the Hungarian border.

The owners of the lands are: Romanian state, the private persons and local communities:

- National Forests Department – Forestry Directorate Arad and Timis - 6133 ha - forests;
- Local communities and private owners - 5129 ha grazing, hayfield, agricultural lands;
- ELH Arad (Romanian Waters National Company) - 1443 ha minor bed of Mures River.

The land administration will be realised according to the Management Plan, respecting the Romanian laws in force, in order to achieve the proposed objectives.

### **4. Conservation reason**

The Inferior Meadow of the Mures River is a typical wetland ecosystem with flowing and stagnant waters, with alluvial forests, willows and poplars gallery and riverside, important nesting place for a lot of bird's species (more than 200) lot of them being protected according to the European Conventions. It is also one of the most important ecological corridor in the Western of Romania having one important role for bio-diversity conservation, facilitating the free shifting of the species down- and up stream of the river and consequently the species speeding, contributing at the ecological balance maintenance. In present the Inferior Meadow of the Mures River has an inefficiently conservation regime, on the small surfaces, under 10% from the entire surface, without a unitary management plan.

### **5. Reservation management**

The management category is established according to the Emergency Order No.236/2000 regarding the protected area regime, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna conservation. According to this Order and to the actual lands situation and natural resources using, it has

been established the IV UICN category of management and conservation - **natural reservation**. The purpose is the protection and conservation of the important species and habitats.

The management of this area will be realised in order to conserve the important habitats and to assure the needs of the protected species.

The management objectives are:

- The maintenance of the habitats conditions for the remarkable species, group of species and biotic communities, through the correct manipulation.
- The facilitating of the scientific research and monitoring as primary associate activities with the management and wise use of natural resources
- Development of some limited areas for public education
- The prevention of the reservation exploitation
- Benefits for local communities, owners of some neighbourhood lands, according to the management plan

## **6. Organisational responsibilities**

From administrative point of view this attributions are in the responsibility of the follow institutions:

- National Forests Department – Forestry Directorate Arad and Timis - beneficiary and co-financing the project;
- Environmental Protection Inspectorate Timisoara and Environmental Protection Inspectorate Arad – as territorial environment protection authorities charged with the Emergency Order 236/2000 application.

Also these institutions will participate with the specialised personnel on the project development period.

## **7. Expected results**

The purpose of this project is to create the natural reservation Inferior Meadow of the Mures River with a 12.705 ha surface, with a management plan according to the Romanian legislation in force and with the principles of wise use of the natural resources. It will be conserved the important habitats and species in order to assure one educational base for students, a natural laboratory for study and scientific research.

Also it will be developed the eco-tourism and other connected activities that will become an important financial resource. At the end of this project will be exist a technical, scientifically and legal base for the realisation of the cross-border natural reservation Inferior Meadow of Mures River with a unitary management plan.