

ASPECTS CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION MEASURES IN ROMANIA

V. CIOBANU¹ V. ALEXANDRU¹

Abstract: *Within the framework of this paper the main preoccupations from our country concerning the environment protection, generally, against diverse pollution sources are presented. The funds that the competent organs dispose as well as the essential directions to be followed in order to harmonize with the European Union demands are also pointed out within this paper.*

Key words: *environment protection, pollution sources.*

It is well known, that due to extensive industry growth, we face an aggression on environment and general human health condition. As a consequence to those facts, the interest in environment protection is needed and more important actions must be taken. In this background, Ministry of Environment and Forests (M.E.F.) has some great responsibilities. With the Romanian integration to the E.U. (Romania being the 7th Country as Surface size), the environment issues must be solved. The impact study of human industrial activities on environment becomes a must, and M.E.F. is about to face some great challenges. In 2006 European Council granted through the so called Operation Environment Program (O.E.P.), 4.5 Billion euro which is to be spent in 7 years (until year 2013). So O.E.P. is the main financial source for environment protection in Romania, his main financing domain being present in Figure 1.

According to the Council Decision regarding the Comunitary Strategic Following Lines, P.O.S. Environment treats both, the existent base infrastructure networks deficits and the administrative and institutional capacity strengthening, in order to stimulate the economic potential and to attain and maintain the high development rations.

The natural resources represent a basic component of the Romania's richness. The capitalization of these resources both, the unregenerable and the regenerable raw materials, as their transformation in necessary life products determines, in a great measure, the economic and social development stage of the country, the environment status and the life level conditions for the people. In order to improve the life level conditions from Romania is necessary that these natural resources to be exploited in a sustainable manner.

¹ Dept. of Forest Exploitation, *Transilvania* University of Braşov.

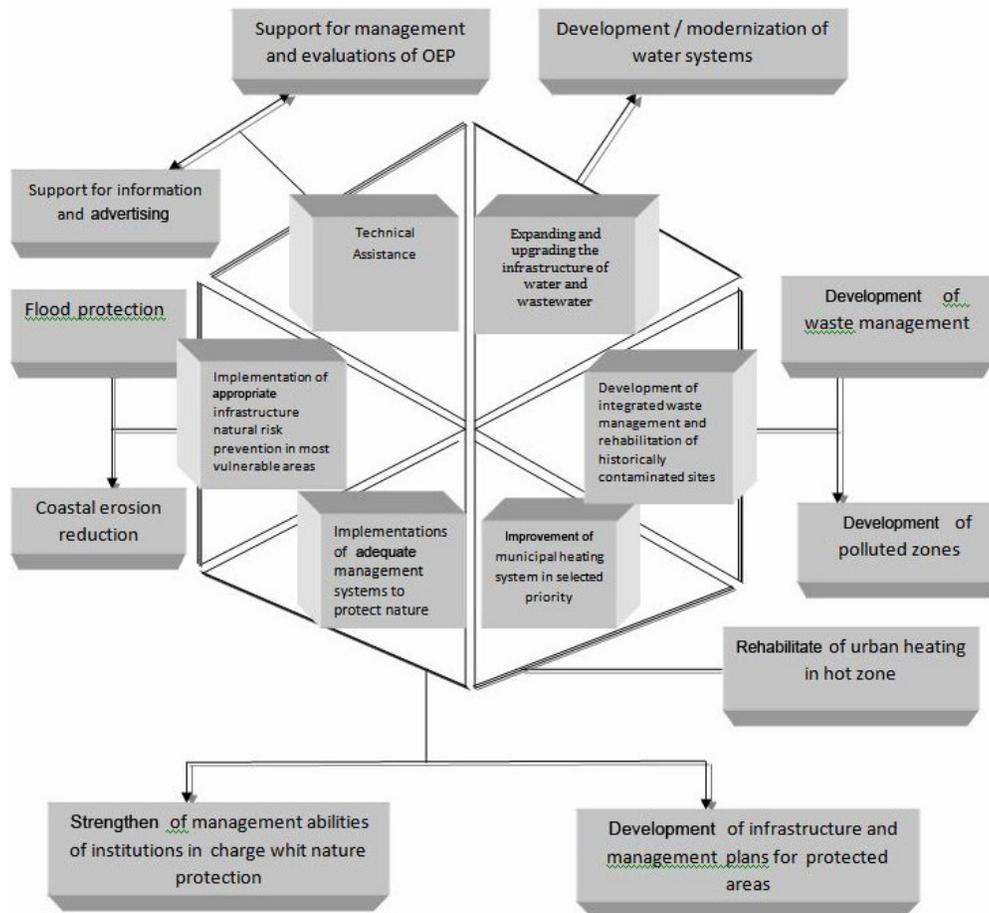


Fig. 1. *Priorities and major domains of OEP*

The sustainable development mission is to find the ways of economic development and growth, simultaneously with the rational utilization of the common natural resources, in order to maintain the regenerable resources and to utilize the unregenerable resources by taking in consideration of the future generations needs.

This program is supported by European Fund of Regional Development (E.F.R.D.) and C.F., Romania government adding 1 Billion euro. Through this program the following issues will be solved:

- Bringing water and sewers to 10 million Romanians;
- Creation in 15 counties of a collection and transport network of the house waste;
- Halting the coast erosion from Black Sea.

In practice, Romanian's expenses will get up to 29.3 billion €. From this money the water investments (filtration, protection against floods) will be around 19.9 billion €, more that 2/3 from the total sum.

A main aspect concerning the environment protection is the lack of the care for the forests and the green zones within the cities.

Although the forests, including privately owned, are under the Forest Code, many owners, without any specialty recommendation, cut down those forests after their own personal agenda. Due to this fact and lumber thefts, Romania lost around 500 000 hectares of forest.

The planting of the new forests was low, so Bărăgan, Oltenia and south of Moldavia regions were hit hard by drought. Lately the cutting down has slowed but the planting of forests goes even slower. The average of reforested areas is around 26%, with a value of 4% in the South. The only measures that can stop the started desertification process is planting new forests with responsibility and determination.

Regarding the green zones within the cities, there are cases where this “natural filters” are needed. In industrial cities or heavy traffic zones have been created so called critical zones that must be countered by green zones. In Bucharest lately 20 million square meters disappeared due to various constructions, each inhabitant having now 2.5 square meters of green zone, comparing with Stockholm 82, Wien 70, Warsaw 31.

This situation demands a fast response considering that the same problem can be encountered in various other cities (Braşov, Bacău, Turda, Craiova, Constanţa, Copşa Mică, Târgu Mureş).

The local administrations now try to maintain current green zones and create new ones. So through Law 24/2007 regarding the administration and regulation for these zones are specified the counting operations and tree health status and, as well, the creation of a National (local) Registry which must be completed until the first January 2008. This act will legally protect the green zones and maybe in the future will motivate their growth.

In this battle of getting minimal pollution parameters, has been suggested replacement of traditional fuels with

alternative ones like “biodiesel” a fuel made from vegetal oils, animal fat and recyclable fats which reduces toxic emission in the atmosphere.

On this line, from the first July 2007, Romania will have to put on the market fuels with a certain concentration of biodiesel. Each year, Romania will have to reach a quota of ecological fuels use, reaching by the end of 2020 the value of 20%. The values are given by a special directive of the European Council.

The road constructors will have to take in consideration the environment by using technologies that will not have a negative impact on National Parks or Forests. A good example might be DN66A which will cross the Carpathians, a useful road for the community and with strategic importance, but this road will have to cross two National Parks (Retezat and Domogeld-Valea Cernei). The building of this road will be possible only with special approvals from the Parks.

Those two Parks are to be included in the European Network Nature 2000 and all construction that might affect them are only to be made with the approval from Environment authority which is fully backed up by the European Community. Although Romania’s economy grows at a very fast pace, this will never justify the environment destruction.

Another aspect of environment protection is the forest zone of Apuseni Mts., where cyanide is used for gold extraction. Regarding this, a law has been passed which forbids use of cyanides in mining, thus bringing a positive response to the project.

In conclusion the environment protection is a issue treated with full attention from Romania. Not only being a moral obligation, the environment problem is a obligation for all the Romanian society, being guarded by harsh laws in which the forest role is a major one.

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