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The research was concerned nitrate, nitrite and ammonium compounds of nitrogen, because they were singled out as the main pollutants of water resources in the region.

To determine the quality of drinking water in urban and suburban areas, 10 samples in the city itself and 2 samples in nearby villages directly bordering the city were taken for hydrochemical analysis. All samples were collected within 2 weeks in the winter period during February 2023. It was found, that, most of the samples do not exceed the MPC (50 mg/dm³) of nitrate concentration, but their concentration can be called acceptable (less than 10 mg/dm³) only for four samples, three of which were taken from the centralized water supply network. On the other hand, in seven other samples, the concentration ranges from 15 to 35 mg/dm³. Such results indicate contamination of the aquifers of the sampling sites, despite the absence of an exceedance of the overall MPC. One sample has a concentration of NO₃⁻ - 153.3 mg/dm³, which exceeds the MPC by 3 times and is not permissible for drinking water.

Most of the selected samples did not exceed the MPC (2.6 mg/dm³) of ammonia, but in 10 samples the concentration exceeded 1 mg/dm³, indicating the recent sources of pollution. In one sample, the concentration of ammonia was 6.7 mg/dm³, which is 2.5 times higher than the MPC

27. WATCH OUT PROJECT: THE USAGE OF MODERN DIGITAL TOOLS IN THE WILDLIFE BIOMONITORING IN KOPAČKI RIT NATURE PARK (CROATIA)

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Kopački rit Nature Park is located in north-eastern Croatia in a large floodplain formed around the confluence of the Danube and the Drava Rivers. Biodiversity inventory shows an exceptional richness, estimated to 2,756 species classified in taxonomical groups of animals, plants, fungi and algae. Project: Wetland and Wildlife Monitoring Using Technology and Acoustics (Watch Out) use the inventive digital and new biomonitoring approach in the wildlife survey in Kopački rit Nature Park. This three-year project is supported under the TECH4ALL Global Initiative by Huawei Croatia, and implement in partnership with Rainforest Connection. Main project tasks are: 1) acoustic monitoring by deploying recording devices for sampling the soundscape, three times a year (mid-spring, mid-summer, early autumn), and data analyses using the artificial intelligence technology; 2) standard field monitoring of wild fauna, flora and habitat diversity, with special concern on 49 wildlife species designated as threatened, protected or Red List species, and five flagship species: *Cervus elaphus*, *Canis aureus*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Dendrocopos major*, and *Hyla arborea*; 3) data collection and harmonization in GIS environment, and geospatial time series analysis of various characteristics vegetation indices; 4) establishment of the Mission Centre for education, raising the public awareness and dissemination of the project results. Watch Out project's benefit is broadening knowledge on diversity and ecology of wildlife in Kopački rit Nature Park, and their resilience to harmful effects of climate change.

28. MODEL FOR THE CONNECTIVITY ANALYSIS OF BLUE-GREEN AREAS IN BUCHAREST METROPOLITAN AREA

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Landscape connectivity is a crucial feature of blue-green infrastructure, and key principle of spatial organization for ensuring better opportunities for providing ecosystem services, which can positively affect urban hydrology, mobility, recreation and cultural assets. One of the main objectives of the European Union's Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy is to integrate its goals into as many policy areas as possible, e.g., climate, water, nature conservation, especially through the European Union Biodiversity Strategy, regional policy, land and soil. In Romania, peri-urban landscapes are under great pressure, which must be curbed by effective cooperation methods, common green spaces, blue-green infrastructure planning tools for municipalities, and active public participation. Taking into account the urban sprawl in large Romanian cities, but also Romania's commitment to achieve the European Green Pact goals in terms of climate change, biodiversity, social conditions and economic development, the present study aims to analyze the connectivity of blue-green areas in Bucharest metropolitan area in order to include the blue-green infrastructure in urban and territorial plans. The methodology uses European environmental data (CORINE, Urban Atlas) and GIS tools dedicated to biodiversity connectivity analyses. The result of this study is a draft of metropolitan blue-green infrastructure. This presentation is supported by the project PN-III-P4-PCE-2021-1015 "Green Belt of Bucharest - Intelligent integrated model for the sustainable management of urban green infrastructure - GreenSmartB", funded by the Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI) and carried out under Program 4: Fundamental and Frontier Research, Exploratory Research Projects.

29. PONDS IN ROMANIA - NEED AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF LEGAL PROTECTION

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The importance that small water bodies, most often called ponds, have in preserving unique biodiversity and providing unique ecosystem services is well known in the scientific world. Many ponds are present on the territory of Romania, which, due to weak rural development in the last century, remained preserved. Today, many of these ponds are protected at the national level, as part of larger territories as protected areas, and at the international level, applying the laws of the European Union. However, a more efficient implementation of by-laws is needed to ensure the complete protection of these fragile aquatic habitats and replace the incomplete legal protection of EU directives related to habitats. Awareness raising and education about the importance of ponds is needed among the immediate users of the areas where these small waters are located. Furthermore, it is necessary to regulate and stimulate the collaboration of relevant stakeholders. Recommendations for improving the legal and practical protection of ponds at the landscape level are given.

Keywords: EU legislation of environmental protection, pondscape, small freshwater habitats, whole-catchment integrity.