

PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF *HUCHO HUCHO L.* STOCKS IN ROMANIA

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ABSTRACT

Objectives :

1. Protection and rehabilitation of huchen stocks in Siret-Bistrita watershed.
2. Protection and rehabilitation of huchen stocks in Tisa-Viseu watershed.
3. Establishing an appropriate management of habitats for this project. These habitats will be declared protected areas.
4. Restocking watersheds known to have been populated with huchen with juvenile fish obtained in captivity from brood stocks.

Actions and means involved :

The National Forest Administration (ROMSILVA) - Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS) and his partner : Romanian Waters National Administration, will perform the following activities, that have started in 2001:

- assessment of huchen stocks in Bistrita and Viseu watersheds, including identification of breeding spots on their offshoots.
- assessing the negative impact of physical-chemical water pollution on the fish, including on other species from the biocoenoses of these rivers; in this respect the quality of these ecosystems will be monitored
- building two facilities for huchen breeding in captivity, one on Viseu river, in Tisa-Viseu watershed (location: Sapanta and on Bistrita Moldoveneasca River, Siret-Bistrita watershed (location: Ceahlau/Martin)
- capturing broodstocks to be stocked in hatcheries in each watershed

(Bistrita, Viseu)

- breeding in captivity biological material originating from natural habitats and obtaining juvenile fish for restocking when they are 6 months old and adapted to local site conditions

- restocking and protection of habitats where the restocking was conducted

- raising the awareness among the local communities by presenting the environment-related legislation on protection of rare species, endangered plants and animals, in general, and huchen in particular.

- setting up working groups involving local stakeholders (local authorities, environment associations, etc.)

Expected results:

- viable stocks representative for normal survival in natural habitats

- implementing a viable monitoring in a partnership with Romanian Waters National Administration and local stakeholders, for protection of habitats and aquatic biodiversity, implicitly protection of huchen

- reduction of pollutant concentrations or elimination of these polluting sources from Bistrita and Viseu rivers

Keywords : huchen, habitat, protection, restocking