



Public Association Ecological Society “BIOTICA” Activity Report for 2025

The year 2025 was one full of achievements for the Public Association Ecological Society “BIOTICA”. Our development strategy, initially approved for the period 2022–2024 and extended through 2025, continued to focus on three main directions: improving conditions for biodiversity, increasing the resilience of communities in the target areas, and strengthening internal capacities and partnerships. The activities carried out contributed significantly to achieving the proposed objectives and to the overall progress of our projects.

Development directions of P.A. E.S. “BIOTICA”:

- 1. Improving conditions for biodiversity;*
- 2. Increasing the resilience of communities in the target areas;*
- 3. Strengthening internal capacities and strategic partnerships.*

Development direction 1. Improving conditions for biodiversity

In 2025, the Ecological Society BIOTICA, in collaboration with the Czech NGO Arnika, implemented a pilot study for monitoring rare plant species, aimed at supporting the preparation of the Natura 2000 network in the Republic of Moldova. This initiative was the first of its kind in the country and aimed to develop and test a comprehensive methodology for identifying, mapping, and assessing populations of vulnerable or threatened plants, providing a solid scientific basis for future biodiversity conservation interventions.

Applied methodology:

1. Mapping species presence and absence: Field teams selected representative sectors, to assess the status of target species. Using mobile applications, each presence and absence point was recorded with precise

GPS coordinates, and the data were stored digitally for further analysis. This approach ensured rigorous data control and made it possible to track population changes over time.

2. Assessment of the biological stage of specimens: The specimens were analyzed in terms of age, health condition, and reproductive potential.
3. Habitat analysis: The study included an assessment of the ecosystem conditions in which these species develop, such as soil type, microclimate, the presence of associated plant species, the degree of human impact, and potential threats (agricultural activities, erosion, invasive species). This holistic approach made it possible to identify undisturbed sectors as the most valuable in terms of biodiversity and conservation of rare species.
4. Digital data collection and management: All observations were integrated into a centralized database, allowing for periodic updates and analysis of population dynamics. This represents an innovative tool for Moldova, providing environmental authorities and local communities with accurate

The study has created the foundation for more effective biodiversity conservation planning in Moldova, providing scientific data for decision-makers, facilitating the alignment of national legislation with EU directives on wild birds and natural habitats, and encouraging the involvement of local communities in environmental protection.

To align Moldova with EU standards on nature protection, BIOTICA, together with Arnika, developed a document explaining the steps required to comply with the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). A methodology for mapping key species and an explanatory glossary of European terms were also developed and submitted to the Ministry of Environment. These tools enable authorities to identify areas that need protection and to plan concrete measures for conserving rare species. Indicator pilot methodology for species mapping and a guidance document for authorities.

Also in 2025, BIOTICA carried out a series of complex actions aimed at improving the capacity of ecosystems within protected areas and contributing to the sustainable conservation of biodiversity.

Within the Lower Nistru National Park, afforestation works were carried out on a total area of 18.97 hectares, in the localities of Palanca, Cîrnățeni, Tudora, and Talmaza, in accordance with technical schemes developed by forestry experts.

These plantations were designed to increase ecosystem resilience, prevent soil erosion, retain water in the soil, and create habitats for local wildlife.

In the Orheiul Vechi Cultural-Natural Reserve, also some plantations with native species had been done to restore degraded ecosystems and create new habitats for wildlife.



In the Iagorlic Reserve, 2.2 hectares were sown with oak seeds to support natural forest regeneration and to create conditions as close as possible to natural ones for local flora and fauna.

In addition to vegetation restoration, BIOTICA supported wildlife by installing 353 artificial nests for rare and protected bird species, including *Falco vespertinus*, *Columba oenas*, and other species listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova, as well as common species that require safe breeding places.

Monitoring showed that birds quickly began using the nests, contributing to the growth and stabilization of local populations.

In collaboration with the Talmază Local Administration, a canal connecting two parts of the old course of the Dniester River was cleaned, that will contribute to the reintroducing water into the river floodplain and the wetlands of Grădina



Turcească. This measure was done in order to contribute to improved conditions for birds, amphibians, reptiles, and other aquatic species, and the restoration of natural habitats, and contributed to maintaining riverine biodiversity.

These integrated interventions will contribute to the resilience of ecosystems, allowing birds and other species to thrive in natural and protected conditions,

while also increasing ecosystems' capacity to withstand human pressures and climate change.

Through these activities, BIOTICA demonstrated the effectiveness of integrated management of protected areas by combining vegetation restoration, wildlife protection, and the rehabilitation of aquatic conditions to contribute to better conditions for habitats.

National Capacities in Protected Area Management

In 2025, BIOTICA carried out a series of activities aimed at strengthening national capacities in protected area management and facilitating the exchange of experience between institutions in Moldova and international partners. One of the key events was the conference “Approaches to Protected Area Conservation in Moldova”, held on December 10, 2025, with the participation of 63 people, including 25 women. The event brought together representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic and Sweden embassies, Austrian Development Agency and the Delegation of the European Union to Moldova. Discussions focused on essential aspects of implementing European standards in protected area management, as well as international lessons and experiences, particularly from countries that have undergone similar transitions, such as the Czech Republic, Germany, and Romania. Participants



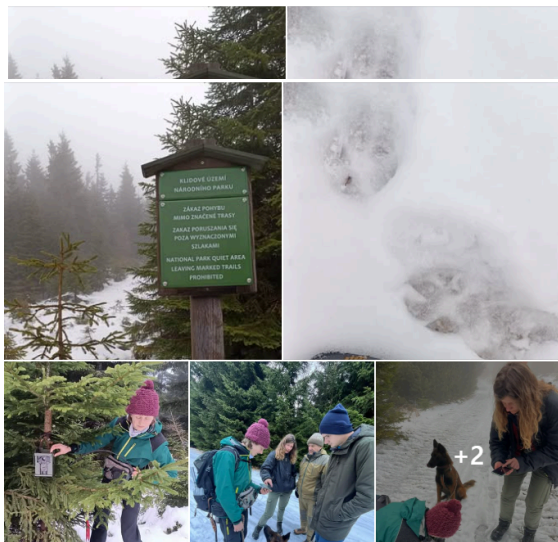
had the opportunity to explore governance models, flora mapping methodologies, and strategies for balancing conservation objectives with land-use practices. The conference also highlighted the essential role of frontline actors in biodiversity conservation, including rangers, volunteers, and community groups, recognizing their

direct contribution to the protection and sustainable management of natural areas.

Another major event was the workshop dedicated to the Natura 2000 network, held on May 21, 2025, at the Ministry of Environment. During the workshop, Mr. Petr Roth, an expert from the Czech Republic, presented practical approaches for Moldova's transition from the Emerald Network to Natura 2000, offering concrete recommendations for identifying areas requiring protection and implementing conservation measures in line with European standards.

The workshop provided an important opportunity for central authorities and protected area administrations to receive expert guidance, clarify necessary steps, and develop technical competencies for implementing Natura 2000

projects in Moldova.



As part of international knowledge exchange, four volunteer inspectors from the Republic of Moldova participated in a study visit to Krkonoše National Park (KRNAP) in the Czech Republic. They learned directly from Czech colleagues about best practices in patrolling and monitoring species in protected areas, maintaining ecotourism trails, and organizing educational activities for

visitors. Participants gained valuable insight into how ecological volunteering can be integrated into protected area management, as well as the importance of collaboration between authorities, communities, and international experts for strengthening institutional capacities.

Additionally, in 2025, BIOTICA developed a partnership with Efes Moldova, within which insect hotels and bird nests were installed in the Botanical Garden in Chişinău. This initiative contributed to the protection of urban biodiversity and promoted a model of environmental education within the community. These measures not only support bird and insect species but also serve as a visible example for visitors and the local community of the importance of



protecting biodiversity even in urban environments. All these activities strengthened national capacities in protected area management by combining theoretical training, international exchange of best practices, and the implementation of practical field measures.

Development Direction 2. Increasing the resilience of communities in the target areas

In 2025, BIOTICA carried out a series of interventions aimed at improving the living conditions of communities in the targeted areas through integrated projects in infrastructure, waste management, and tourism development. These initiatives had a direct impact on residents and increased the resilience of local communities.



One key area of intervention was waste management and the creation of recreational spaces.

In the village of Copanca, together with local volunteers, parks and springs were cleaned, and the area was equipped with tables and benches, providing residents with a safe and pleasant space for leisure and community gatherings.

In Saseni, Calarasi district, three illegal dumps were removed, and the local

municipality received a plastic compacting press, enabling more efficient collection and recycling of plastic waste, contributing to environmental protection and local hygiene. These measures not only improve the appearance of communities but also raise awareness among residents about the importance of a clean environment and their role in maintaining it.



Another essential area was water and sanitation infrastructure, vital for community health and comfort.

In Grădinița, Căușeni district, a sanitary block was built in the town hall building, serving around 400 people, including children and elderly individuals attending multifunctional hall and cultural activities.

In Cioburciu, Ștefan-Vodă district, the artesian well pumping system was rehabilitated, benefiting 1,613 people.

In Olanesti, the water tank was replaced with a new one, and the pumping system was modernized, providing stable access to clean water for 385 people.



In Purcari commune, interventions included rehabilitating the pumping system of artesian wells in Purcari and Viisoara villages, providing safe and reliable drinking water to 1,586 people.



These projects kindly funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) as part of the Austrian International Partnerships improved water security, public health, and reduced the daily effort needed by residents to access potable water.

Beyond basic infrastructure, BIOTICA invested in sustainable tourism and facilitating visits to protected areas. In Tipova and Iagorlic reserves, tourist trails were created, allowing visitors to explore the natural beauty of these areas,



learn about biodiversity, and interact responsibly with the environment. In Iagorlic Reserve, visitor facilities were built, including spaces for events and educational activities, promoting eco-tourism and public awareness of environmental protection.

Through these integrated interventions, a total of nine direct actions were implemented, benefiting approximately 5,500 people in the targeted communities, with about half being women, ensuring a balanced and

inclusive impact. The activities combined infrastructure improvement, environmental protection, and promotion of responsible tourism, demonstrating how local interventions can significantly enhance quality of life, comfort, health, and civic engagement in communities.

Increasing Knowledge on Environmental Issues

In 2025, BIOTICA placed a strong emphasis on environmental education and raising awareness among communities about the importance of protecting the environment and conserving biodiversity. To meet the need for information and training for citizens of all ages, the organization carried out a series of educational and interactive activities that combined knowledge-sharing with the direct involvement of communities and youth.

These experiences were designed to strengthen theoretical knowledge through direct contact with nature and active participation in practical activities.

Tree planting initiatives played a central role, involving local volunteers and environmentally conscious youth. In Purcari, Talmază, and Răscăieți, dozens of participants contributed to reforesting degraded areas, learning proper tree planting and maintenance techniques, as well as basic principles of soil and biodiversity conservation. These activities were not only ecological but also educational, giving participants a sense of responsibility toward the environment.



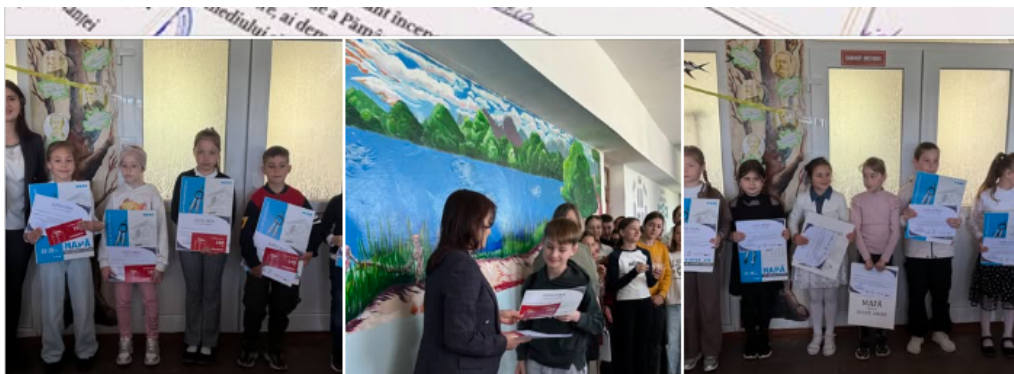
Volunteer inspectors of protected areas received specialized training through two workshops held in the Orheiul Vechi and Lower Nistru Reserves. Forty-one participants learned species monitoring methods, ecological patrolling, and community engagement techniques. These sessions helped strengthen institutional capacities and created a network of local

actors capable of applying best practices in nature conservation.

Beyond tree planting and workshops, BIOTICA organized five cleanup actions in the villages of Răscăieți, Purcari, Tudora, Grădinița, and Cioburciu, involving a total of 162 participants. These events not only cleaned the environment but also had an educational impact, showing communities how they can actively contribute to maintaining a healthy and orderly environment.

Excursions and study visits provided participants with practical, comprehensive experiences. Five excursions brought together 136 participants, including representatives from other protected areas, media, and local authorities, allowing them to observe ecosystems firsthand, understand species interdependence, and discuss conservation challenges and solutions.

For students and communities, BIOTICA organized ten thematic events for Earth Day, featuring interactive presentations, educational contests, and hands-on environmental protection activities. Eighty-eight students participated, fostering curiosity about nature and encouraging active involvement in environmental protection from an early age.



In total, the activities carried out included three tree-planting events, two workshops for volunteer inspectors, five cleanup campaigns, five study excursions, six informational events, ten video materials, three publications, and two informational panels. Moreover, these activities received over 20 media appearances, helping disseminate information on environmental issues and increasing the visibility of conservation efforts. This combination of formal education and practical activities strengthened community knowledge and awareness, laying the foundation for long-term, sustainable engagement in environmental protection in Moldova.

Local Policies with Environmental Aspects

In 2025, BIOTICA placed special emphasis on strengthening the capacity of local communities to integrate environmental considerations into local development planning and management. In this context, the organization worked closely with the local group in Grădinița to develop a comprehensive local strategy aimed at combining socio-economic



development goals with the urgent need for environmental protection. The strategy was designed as a practical tool, tailored to the specific needs of the community, and included concrete measures for waste management, protection of water sources, conservation of local biodiversity, and promotion of environmental education in schools and throughout the community. The development process was participatory, involving consultations with community members, local authorities, and environmental experts. This dialogue made it possible to identify the real challenges faced by the community, such as uncontrolled waste, soil degradation, or insufficient infrastructure for environmental protection. By incorporating the perspectives of citizens and local stakeholders, the strategy not only reflected real needs but also fostered a sense of collective responsibility, increasing the likelihood of effective implementation of the proposed measures. The document was presented to the Local Council in December 2025 and officially approved, thereby becoming mandatory for all activities and projects carried out within the community. This approval represented a crucial step in integrating environmental protection into local decision-making processes and provided authorities with clear tools for planning and monitoring the implementation of ecological measures. The strategy also includes recommendations for periodic monitoring of progress, citizen involvement in environmental actions, and the organization of awareness campaigns to strengthen understanding of the importance of environmental protection.

The organization's visibility in society was also enhanced through 15 awareness campaigns on diverse topics such as reforestation, protection of rare species, water and soil management, and waste management. These campaigns reached approximately 95,000 people through Facebook, the organization's website, and other media channels. BIOTICA representatives also actively participated in conferences, forums, and national and local events, promoting the organization's image and environmental protection message.

Conclusion and Future Perspectives

The 2025 activity report of the Public Association Ecological Society "BIOTICA" highlights a solid and coherent evolution of the organization, both operationally and strategically. The activities carried out demonstrate an integrated approach to environmental protection, in which scientific research, practical interventions, community engagement, and institutional development complement each other.

In terms of biodiversity, BIOTICA has succeeded not only in contributing to the conservation of species and habitats but also in introducing modern monitoring and planning tools aligned with European standards. The results obtained—from stabilizing certain species to identifying those in critical danger—provide a valuable scientific basis for future decisions and position the organization as a relevant actor in the process of integrating the Republic of Moldova into the Natura 2000 network. Regarding local communities, interventions have had a direct and visible impact on quality of life. Infrastructure projects, waste management, access to water, and tourism development have demonstrated that environmental protection can go hand in hand with socio-economic development. Moreover, the active involvement of citizens in decision-making processes and concrete actions has contributed to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility. At the institutional level, internal capacity strengthening, development of international partnerships, and increased public visibility have enhanced BIOTICA's ability to implement its mission effectively.

The implementation of the 2022–2025 Development Strategy was successfully carried out and, in many cases, exceeded the planned targets. A total of 64 hectares were reforested, compared to the 40 hectares planned, and multiple interventions were carried out to restore ecosystems and water infrastructure. Local working groups were strengthened, and communities were actively

involved in decision-making regarding environmental protection. Public awareness regarding protected areas and biodiversity increased significantly, and the organization established a team of volunteer environmental inspectors and their association, called the “Rangers.”

Looking ahead, there is significant potential to build upon the achievements to date. An important step would be to expand successful projects to additional regions of the country, thereby increasing their impact across more communities. The continued development of the Natura 2000 network in Moldova will also be a key priority. The experience gained so far provides a clear advantage, positioning BIOTICA to become a key actor in this process. Communities must remain at the center of all actions. People have shown that when they are informed and engaged, they can actively contribute to change. Therefore, investment in environmental education—particularly among youth—represents one of the most important directions for the future. With the experience accumulated and the engagement achieved so far, the future offers the opportunity to do even more.