

Project Update: July 2018

Since February 2018, the project implementation has progressed in different but complementary directions:

- We have written the research article *"Economic valuation of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation in the Codru forest in the Republic of Moldova: application of the choice modelling technique in the Codru Quest project"* and sent it for peer review and publication in a scientific journal. The article describes the research of the Codru Quest, its results, and updated discussions and conclusions. It was necessary to prepare this article and submit it for publishing, as it serves as essential reference for the on-line course and off-line training programme. Now we wait for the decision from the journal of our first choice, *"Environmental and Resource Economics"*.
- We have also prepared the publication *"Methodological Guide to Choice Modelling: Example of the Codru Quest Project"* and submitted it for review and publishing as an online and printed book. The guide is a key reference in the course and programme as well.
- We have elaborated the structure and learning content of the online course *"Forest Ecosystem Services: Valuation, Conservation, and Sustainable Management"*. To do that, we have completed the train-the-trainers courses *"Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services"* and *"The Precautionary Principle"* and invested the key learning points and resources from them into our own course.
- We have also prepared the script of the video trainings for the on-line course and started filming its first chapter / level.
- We have designed the off-line training programme (found below) *"Integration of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation into collaborative sustainable management of the Codru Forest"* and recruited trainers for delivering it at the end of September 2018.
- Finally yet importantly, we have initiated the development of additional engagement and learning features in the MEGA platform, as well as preparation of its application version.



Documenting biodiversity and ecosystem services in the forest: *Ipheclides podalirius* (VU in Moldova) and the regulating ecosystem service of pollination.
Source: Alexandr Iscenco, 2018.

Venue		Duration			
City/Town	Country	Start date	End date	Activity duration (excluding travel)	Travel days
Chisinau/Lozova	The Republic of Moldova	9/23/2018	9/29/2018	5	2
Activity Programme					
Timetable	Activities	Non-formal and informal learning methods used			
Day 1: 23.09.2018 (Sunday)					
-17.00	Arrival to Moldova	International participants arrive to Moldova. The welcoming committee greets them at the Chisinau International Airport or the Central Train Station and takes them to their accommodation premises.			
17.00 – 18.00	Welcoming dinner				
18.00 – 20.00	Welcome to Moldova!	Participants get to know the city Chisinau and its main sights.			
Day 2: 24.09.2018 (Monday)					
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast				
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome and opening remarks	Introduction of the project and the digital learning tool (MEGA platform), setting the ground rules, discussion of program and use of energizers to refresh the mind. Objective: to create a safe and pleasant environment for the participants and trainers to ensure the smooth learning process. Activities will be facilitated by the host coordinator and trainers.			
09.30 – 10.00	Introduction to the training programme (objectives, methodology, and agenda)	Participants know what to expect from the training programme. They understand the methodology and approach to be used. The participants also get to know the trainers and facilitators.			
10.00 – 10.30	Open space + Youth Pass	Participants learn about Youth Pass, its advantages, and what it may mean for them in the future.			
10.30 – 12.00	Introduction to the Ecosystem Services	Participants understand what are ecosystem services, what is TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity), how they are used nowadays, and what SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) they contribute to accomplishing.			

12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 14.00	Travel to the Codru Nature Reserve and Getting familiar to "The Republic of Abaldenia"	Participants travel to the site of the training programme. On the way they receive their "visas" to the fictitious country, the Republic of Abaldenia, along with the information about its specifics.
14.00 – 15.00	The Case of Abaldenia	"Participants arrive to the Codru Nature Reserve and meet with the local participants, organizers, and facilitators. They learn about ecosystem services in the Codru forest, different interests, collaborations, and conflicts between various stakeholders, as well as start working together in teams. Objectives: to work on team development and presenting each country's PAs issues and problems faced by people from nearby villages. Participants will be divided in mixed country groups of 4-5 people."
15.00 – 17.00	Where the story begins	In a teambuilding activity, the participants discuss and define the scope of the ES assessment, explore the links between development activities and ES services, and prioritize key ES for the case. Then they present the results from the activity in a non-formal and interactive form.
17.00 – 18.00	Dinner	
18.00 – 19.00	Wrap up and Reflection of the day	"Trainers and facilitators together with the participants summarize the key learning points of the day. Reflection will be done by each participant anonymously via the MEGA Platform or on a sheet of paper. The trainers will facilitate the reflection. Objective: to get participant's feedback to make necessary changes into the program. Additionally, the participants choose the presenters for the morning recap session in the form of TV ""Abaldenia Prime"" among themselves."
19.00 – 22.00	Free evening / Movie night	
Day 3: 25.09.2018 (Tuesday)		
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast	
09.00 – 09.30	Morning recap: TV "Abaldenia	Participants recall the key learning points of the previous day in

	Prime"	an interactive and fun way.
09.30 – 10.00	Forest Ecosystem Services Game	Participants are divided in teams and invited to take a walk in the Codru forest and the PA. During the walk, a trainer, ornithologist, will show and describe the local species of birds and mention which of them are endangered and why. Participants will be have the possibility to identify these species with binoculars, take pictures in nature, and ask some questions afterwards. After the session a short debriefing session will take place in the group circle. Objective: to initiate practical assessment of values of biodiversity and practice self-reflection.
10.00 – 10.30	ES Assessment: Identifying conditions and trends of ES	Participants understand different methods for assessing ES. They learn more about challenges in assessing conditions and trends of ES. They also use the Forest ES Game experience to reflect on how ES can be identified and assessed.
10.30 – 12.00	Applying ES assessment: Exercise	In a practical teamwork exercise, the participants, explore conditions and trends in the supply/demand for ES, identify drivers of change, and determine concrete stakeholders behind the drivers. They use the Forest ES Game as input for the exercise. Then the report on their outputs via the MEGA platform.
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 14.00	Applying ES assessment: Presentations	Participants' teams present the results of the exercise, give feedback to each other, and discuss the overall results together with the trainers and facilitators. They share the learning accumulated so far.
14.00 – 15.00	Governance of Biodiversity	Participants learn about management and governance of ES and biodiversity, different governance structures and approaches. They also see how biodiversity managed and governed in Moldova and exchange case practices from their home countries.
15.00 – 17.00	Appraising the institutional and cultural framework: Exercise	Participants overview the key stakeholders' mandates, positions, needs, interests. They identify possible alliances and conflicts and determine existing incentives that influence ES. The

		participants report their findings via the MEGA platform.
17.00 – 18.00	Dinner	
18.00 – 19.00	Wrap up and Reflection of the day	"Trainers and facilitators together with the participants summarize the key learning points of the day. Participants are divided into groups of 5-6 people, and facilitators ask them a number of prepared questions. The session will be facilitated by the trainers and staff. Objective: to get participants feedback to make necessary changes into the program/organisation + to indicate their self-assessment process and help them to learn. Additionally, the participants choose the presenters for the morning recap session in the form of TV ""Abaldenia Prime"" among themselves."
19.00 – 20.00	Intercultural evening / Potlatch party	"Participants present their cultures by sharing traditional food, singing, dancing, and storytelling. They are supported by trainers and staff. Objective: to raise awareness of different cultures/countries represented on the project and foster intercultural learning."
20.00 – 22.00	Free evening / Movie night	
Day 4: 26.09.2018 (Wednesday)		
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast	
09.00 – 09.30	Morning recap: TV "Abaldenia Prime"	Participants recall the key learning points of the previous day in an interactive and fun way.
09.30 – 10.00	Trip to the Lozova village	Participants walk to the nearby Lozova village to meet with its mayor and the local community.
10.00 – 12.00	Closer to the edge	Participants are introduced to local community during a meeting with people from the village. They discuss with them the dependence on ES of the Codru forest, different interests, and the problems they are facing. This experience represents a practical follow-up after the exercise of the previous day.
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 15.00	Study visit around the Codru Nature	Participants are invited to the PAs administrative building, where

	Reserve administration and the Museum of Nature	they meet local staff, have a guided tour around the Museum of Nature in the PA, and deepen their knowledge about how a PA works.
15.00 – 17.00	Guided excursion in the Codru forest and the Codru Nature Reserve	Participants take a guided walk in the Codru forest and try to identify as many species from the Museum of Nature as they can. They report their findings via the MEGA platform.
17.00 – 18.00	Dinner	
18.00 – 19.00	Wrap up and Reflection of the day	"Trainers and facilitators together with the participants summarize the key learning points of the day. Participants are provided with the guided meditation session first to relax and unwind after the long day. Then they are asked to draw an emotion they feel at the moment and explain why they feel that way in the group circle. Objective: to get participant's feedback to make necessary changes into the program/organisation + to initiate their self-assessment process and help them to learn. Additionally, the participants choose the presenters for the morning recap session in the form of TV "Abaldenia Prime" among themselves."
19.00 – 22.00	Free evening / Movie night	
Day 5: 27.092018 (Thursday)		
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast	
09.00 – 09.30	Morning recap: TV "Abaldenia Prime"	Participants recall the key learning points of the previous day in an interactive and fun way.
09.30 – 11.00	Reforestation of Mind	After a sport hour in nature (yoga or aerobics) participants receive some practical information about the issues with conserving ES and solutions to them, as well as about the EU policy on nature conservation, Natura 2000 sites, and sustainable development.
11.00 – 12.00	ES valuation methods	Participant get better understanding about various economic valuation methods, their advantages and disadvantages, as well as about related opportunities and risks. They understand the concept of Total Economic Value (TEV) of ES and how to

		apply it.
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 15.00	Implementation of economic valuation of ES	Participants learn about economic valuation methods in practice and try to implement one of them on the presented case. They explore the viability of economic valuation in decision-making processes and learn about opportunities and risks of economic evaluation.
15.00 – 16.00	Decision-making process: policy options & entry points	Participants get better understanding on various policy options towards more sustainable use of ES. They share examples on sustainable management and conservation of ES in PAs from their home countries.
16.00 – 17.00	Putting the pieces together	In a practical teamwork exercise, the participants identify suitable policy options for the case of the Republic of Abaldenia and entry points to key decision-making processes. Then they present their results in an interactive way.
17.00 – 18.00	Dinner	
18.00 – 19.00	Wrap-up and Mid-term evaluation	"Trainers and facilitators together with the participants summarize the key learning points of the day. Participants are divided into groups of 4-5 and provided with visual aid. After that the facilitators ask them the prepared questions. Objective: to evaluate the learning progress and get participants' feedback. Additionally, the participants choose the presenters for the morning recap session in the form of TV "Abaldenia Prime" among themselves."
19.00 – 22.00	Free evening / Movie night	
Day6: 28.09.2018 (Friday)		
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast	
09.00 – 09.30	Morning recap: TV "Abaldenia Prime"	Participants recall the key learning points of the previous day in an interactive and fun way.
09.30 – 11.00	Brainstorming for the manual /	Participants engage in facilitated brainstorming and prepare

	brochure	ideas for the manual on community-based sustainable management of ES and biodiversity in a PA, where they share their visions on PAs improvement. They also consider how they can reach the target group via the outcome which could be visual material, such as videos, photo collage, could be a poem, could be an article - it depends on the medium they choose.
11.00 – 12.00	Presentation of ideas	Participants present their ideas to each other and agree on the ones they'd like to continue working on.
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 14.00	Travel to the Eco-village	During the trip, the participants are divided into final working groups. Each group "polishes" the ideas it is responsible for.
14.00 – 15.00	Excursion in the Eco-Village	Participants meet the Eco-village "founders" and residents and take a guided tour around the village and it's Eco-centre. Objective: to introduce participants to the local history/culture/tradition and foster intercultural awareness and learning, as well as to show how an eco-friendly village works and how it was built.
15.00 – 17.00	Manual / brochure teamwork exercise	Participants' teams work on their ideas for the manual / brochure in the Eco-centre. Trainers, facilitators, and mentors support them throughout the process.
17.00 – 18.00	Traditional vegetarian dinner	A traditional dinner organised for the participants, where the Eco-village residents join them.
18.00 – 19.00	Travel to Chisinau and Reflection of the day	"On the way to Chisinau, trainers and facilitators together with the participants summarize the key learning points of the day. Participants' teams reflect on the results of the day and share their feedback. The session will be facilitated by the trainers and staff."
19.00 – 22.00	Free evening / Continuation of teamwork	
Day 7: 29.09.2018 (Saturday)		
08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast	

09.00 – 10.00	Finalization of teamwork and preparation of presentations	Participants' teams finish their work and compile them into a presentable format. They are also getting ready to "pitch" their creations before the jury.
10.00 – 11.00	Presentations of the teams	Participants' teams present their videos/poems/photos/articles that will be included to the manual / brochure, supported by leaders. They receive feedback from the jury.
11.00 – 12.00	Compilation of manual / brochure	Participants' teams together with trainers, facilitators, and mentors compile the draft version of the manual / brochure and split responsibilities for finalizing it after the training programme until the agreed-upon deadline.
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 14.00	Application in real life	Participants discuss how to use and disseminate the manual / brochure in their work, as well as how to apply all the learning obtained from the training programme in real life. They express commitments on taking the learning points forward for sustainable development practices in the PAs in their home countries. Objective: to involve participants into dissemination activities and let them to take the ownership of the project.
14.00 – 15.00	Reflection and evaluation	Participants share their final feedback and discuss common next steps and organization of further, more in-depth, training programmes.
15.00 – 17.00	Announcement of winners and award ceremony.	Participants get to know the winners from the Leaderboard on the MEGA platform. All participants receive certificates and Youth Passes, while the winners get extra awards.
16.00 -	Farewell and departures	"Participants, trainers, facilitators, mentors, and organizers exchange ""sugar cubes"". Organizers help the participants find their way to the Chisinau International Airport or the Central Train Station."

