

7

working
groups

56

national policy and
regulatory documents

consulted

3

local policy and
regulatory
documents

45

training sessions

communication
campaigns

43

8 draft
legislation

2

grant
programmes

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Foreword

Dear friends of nature,

In 2025, we will celebrate 15 years of passion and dedication to the environment. Looking back, I remember with pride every project we have accomplished together – from protecting wild flora and fauna and strengthening the environmental regulatory framework to educating communities in villages and cities. Thank you for being with us every step of the way and in all our activities. Together, we are committed to continuing this path with dedication and with the conviction that every action matters for a greener future.

This annual report is both a review of our joint efforts and a document that reflects how we have built our path, day by day, with patience and perseverance. We have worked together to make protected areas examples of good management and so that environmental laws and policies truly respond to people's needs and current challenges. The road is not over yet. For the Republic of Moldova's European path to bring better living conditions for people, a joint and sustained effort is needed: harmonising environmental legislation, effectively enforcing rules and safeguarding in practice each person's right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

This report seeks to offer a faithful picture of our achievements, our chosen directions, and the way partnerships and local communities add strength and meaning to our work.

Dr. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov

Director of P.A. EcoContact

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... for the Republic of Moldova's European path to bring better living conditions for people, a joint and sustained effort is needed



Who we are and how we are organised

Founded on 2 August 2010 as the successor to the Milieukontakt International office in the Republic of Moldova, the EcoContact Public Association draws its roots from 2001, when Milieukontakt began operating in the country. The experience accumulated over the years in environmental protection and civil society has allowed us to become an organisation with recognised expertise at the local, national, and regional levels. An important milestone was in 2013, when we took over the Aarhus Center for Environmental Information and Consultation, established with the support of the OSCE Mission, thereby consolidating our role as a promoter of access to information and public participation in environmental matters.

By the end of 2024, EcoContact's organisational structure reflected a stable and multidisciplinary team: a board of directors, president, executive director, financial manager, accountant, office manager, programme managers, legal experts, environmental experts, a public relations and communication specialist, and a design and social media specialist. The diversity of specialisations and the close collaboration among members made it possible to expand projects and initiatives at all levels, providing support and consultancy both to authorities and to citizens or partners from the non-governmental sector.

Each year, we have strived to cultivate an organisational climate based on trust, responsibility, and openness to innovation, so that we can respond promptly and professionally to the increasingly diverse demands in the field of environmental protection. At the celebration of our 15th anniversary, we are proud to speak of a united and dynamic professional community, ready to seize every opportunity to strengthen EcoContact's impact on society.



Our mission and vision

EcoContact's *mission* is to contribute, day by day, to the sustainable development of the Republic of Moldova by promoting environmental protection and the responsible use of natural resources. From the very beginning, our work has been guided by the principles of transparency, cooperation, and responsibility towards future generations. We consider that a better future is possible only if every community, institution, and citizen understand their role in maintaining a healthy and safe environment.

Our *vision* is rooted in the conviction that the Republic of Moldova can become a society where human and environmental rights are fully respected, and where protected areas serve as examples of good practice in conservation, development, and management for the entire region. We want EcoContact to be a reference organisation, capable of inspiring sustainable change and mobilising strong partnerships both locally and internationally. In every project and initiative, we undertake, we strive to make the best use of our technical expertise, the dedication of our team, and the involvement of communities, so that the positive impact is reflected in every corner of the country.

Through our work, we have chosen to implement the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, to support European integration in the fields of climate and environment, to constantly monitor compliance with environmental rights, to promote the green economy, to contribute to the re-naturalisation of aquatic and biodiversity ecosystems, to work towards reducing the effects of climate change and the risks of natural disasters, and, not least, to ensure that environmental policies and legislation are implemented properly and transparently. This integrated approach allows us to adapt to the ever-changing environmental challenges and to put forward solutions that prioritise the balance between economic development, social cohesion, and biodiversity conservation.

Directions



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL
LEGISLATION



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AARHUS CONVENTION

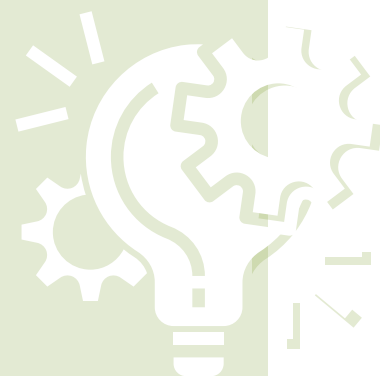
Executive summary

In 2024, EcoContact's work focused on several key areas: strengthening the environmental legislative framework and aligning it with European Union standards, promoting sustainable development and partnerships, advancing public participation and transparent communication in environmental justice (Implementation of the Aarhus Convention), and supporting the professional development of the team and institutional capacities. These priorities guided our projects, partnerships, and interventions, contributing to stronger environmental policies and greater community involvement.

Beyond the figures, every result reflects the dedication of our team and the commitment of partners, authorities, civil society, and citizens to building a society where the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is respected.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2024

- Improving governance of protected areas in Moldova through institutional development, capacity development and habitat restoration
- Roadmap for the alignment of EMERALD network establishment and management to NATURA 2000 standards
- Green justice for stronger environmental protection and communities in Moldova
- Green Agenda for Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine
- Small grant awarded to A.O. EcoContact to support the implementation of the project "Strengthening Efficiency and Access to Justice in Moldova"
- Shields for human rights defenders – supporting human rights defenders in the Republic of Moldova
- Enhancing PRTRs for Sustainability: Meeting the E-PRTR, IED and PRTR Protocol obligations
- Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting – Moldova
- Strengthening the Emerald network in the Republic of Moldova
- Forestry and natural resource management in higher education
- Elaboration of a National Plan for the Reduction of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants and a National Roadmap for Methane Reduction



01 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION

In 2024, environmental legislation was one of EcoContact's central areas of activity. The team was actively engaged in monitoring the implementation of Moldova's environmental regulatory framework, consulting with and supporting key actors in harmonising national legislation with that of the European Union, and safeguarding citizens' environmental rights. Our efforts focused on strengthening the legislative framework by facilitating public consultations, ensuring the transposition and alignment of legislation with EU standards, training competent authorities on environmental regulations, and collaborating with stakeholders to improve the implementation of environmental rules and to encourage community participation in environmental policymaking.

A notable achievement in 2024 was the technical and consultative support provided by EcoContact in the process of developing, finalising, and approving the Environmental Strategy of the Republic of Moldova for 2024–2030.

This national strategic document reflects the Republic of Moldova's commitment to ensuring a healthy and safe environment, aligned with European objectives for environmental protection and sustainable development.



Another significant activity of the organisation was the conduct of the strategic environmental assessment of the Nistru River Basin District Management Plan for Cycle II (2024–2029), in accordance with the provisions of the national legal framework on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The document was prepared as part of the strategic planning process in the field of water resources management, with the aim of integrating environmental considerations at an early stage of plan development. Within this activity, the potential effects on environmental factors were analysed, and concrete recommendations were formulated to prevent, reduce, and compensate for possible negative impacts.

In 2024, EcoContact reviewed draft normative acts relevant to environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources and prepared a substantial number of **59 detailed opinions on regulatory and policy documents**. These opinions reflect the perspectives of experts and the interested public, resulting from a rigorous process of analysis and cooperation between experts and stakeholders. They highlight the essential role of active participation and dialogue in the development of the environmental regulatory and policy framework and in promoting responsible governance.

56 national regulatory and policy documents

(climate change, human rights, green economy, waste management, forestry, eco-labelling, obsolete pesticides, the Emerald Network, pollutant emissions, SEVESO, environmental impact assessment, reorganisation of subordinate institutions, application of the best available techniques (BAT), etc.)

3 local regulatory and policy documents

(water and wastewater regulations; green space regulations; and an action plan for sustainable energy and climate)

At the same time, EcoContact representatives were actively involved as delegated members in **seven** inter-institutional working groups and intergovernmental commissions:

01. Working Group on Chapter 27 (acquis screening for the Ministry of Environment)

02. Republic of Moldova – Romania – Ukraine Working Group for the Management of the Prut River Waters

03. Working Group on International Environmental Commitments

04. Working Group on Surface Water Quality

05. Danube-Prut and Black Sea River Basin District Committee

06. Commission for the Transfer of Adaptation and Development Services of the PRTR Information System

07. Working Group for the Protection of the Dniester River Basin



A significant initiative launched in 2024, with the support of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), was the drafting of a new law on nature protection. To underpin this legislative process, EcoContact initiated a preliminary study that identifies and analyses the existing gaps in aligning the national legal framework with European Union and international legislation in the field of protected areas.

Another document developed and approved by ministerial order is the **methodology for drafting management plans for Emerald sites** – a valuable guide for individuals and institutions involved in their preparation, aimed at standardising the format and approaches adopted.

EcoContact continued to provide support to the Ministry of the Environment in implementing the institution's action plan by drafting and submitting for review and promotion to the relevant departments within the ministry nine draft legislative acts and methodological documents relevant to improving the regulatory framework in the field of environmental protection:

- Draft Law on Environmental Liability, concerning the prevention and remediation of environmental damage
- Draft Government Decision on the approval of the Methodology for calculating the cost of environmental permits
- Draft Government Decision on the approval of the Methodology for calculating the cost of the environmental authorisation / integrated environmental authorisation
- Guidelines on Biodiversity Assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure
- Guidelines on the Implementation of Procedures for Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Draft Government Decision amending the Regulation on Eco-labelling
- Draft Government Decision on the Reform of the Moldosilva Agency
- Draft Government Decision on the approval of the Regulation on Access to Environmental Information, Access to Justice, and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making



To support the development of professional and institutional competences in the field of environment and environmental justice, EcoContact organised and coordinated, throughout 2024, a series of training sessions, workshops, and programmes dedicated to diverse target groups. The activities below illustrate the variety and scale of the efforts undertaken to train specialists and to strengthen the effectiveness of institutions involved in environmental protection and in safeguarding the right to a healthy environment

6 training sessions

for 110 representatives of law enforcement bodies: 24 judges and 86 prosecutors, on the specificities of examining environmental offences, carried out in partnership with the National Institute of Justice: [Training workshop](#).

4 introductory training courses

for 70 participants including human rights defenders, local-level civil society organisations, and civic activists: [Strengthening the capacities for defending the human right to a healthy environment](#).

11 training sessions

within the Academic School of Environmental Education for 40 undergraduate and master's students from 4 universities: [Academic School of Environmental Education for Young Lawyers](#).

1 training workshop

for approximately 50 representatives of economic operators and central public authorities on the regulatory aspects of implementing Law No. 227/2022 on Industrial Emissions: [Training workshop on the Industrial Emissions Law](#).

1 training workshop

for 70 representatives of IPM on control emissions of environment ([IPM training on integrated environmental control](#)).

1 training workshop

for representatives of protected areas in the Republic of Moldova - [Workshop on protected area management](#).

1 training workshop for representatives of academic and environmental institutions focused on strengthening institutional and professional capacities in the field of forestry: [International collaboration for education in natural resource management: practices from the USA](#).



In 2024, EcoContact published a series of specialised guides designed to provide practical tools and guidance for the effective implementation of environmental legislation. The guides presented below cover topics such as protected area management, biodiversity assessment, environmental litigation, and the defence of the right to a healthy environment.



- **Guide on the Development of Management Plans for Emerald Sites in the Republic of Moldova**
- **Guide on Strategic Environmental Litigation**
- **Guide on Biodiversity Assessment**
- **Guide for Defenders of the Right to a Healthy Environment**

The EcoContact team **continued to provide free environmental consultations, delivering more than 10 such services during the year.** The topics addressed were similar to those of the previous year, reflecting the persistence and, in some cases, the intensification of certain environmental problems. This highlights the need for sustainable solutions and ongoing collaboration among all actors engaged in environmental protection.

- Interpretation of the regulatory framework on the legality of logging operations in forest areas.
- Application of relevant regulatory provisions to the process of expanding forest plantations on agricultural land.
- Normative approaches and gaps in the management of the private forest fund
- Interpretation of normative provisions on the planning of green spaces

- Application of the regulatory framework for waste management in the context of local public authorities' obligations and respect for human rights to a healthy environment.
- Implementation of procedures for conducting environmental impact assessments.
- Implementation of the regulatory framework for strategic environmental assessment.
- The process of land delimitation and zoning in protected areas, regulatory approach and practical application in the field.
- Interpretation of the regulatory framework in the field of management and construction of septic tanks in rural areas.
- Application of the regulatory framework in the field of industrial emissions.

Support was also provided to beneficiaries in drafting petitions and complaints to environmental authorities regarding violations of legislation, in preparing requests for access to environmental information, and in identifying the permits required for carrying out economic activities in protected areas. Beneficiaries received legal assistance to defend their right to use local natural resources and to prevent water pollution, including in cases where livestock farms lacked waste and wastewater management systems.

At the same time, EcoContact provided assistance to environmental activists who reported the removal of a land area from the Țipova Landscape Reserve, notifying the control authorities. Through these actions, the organisation empowers citizens to protect their rights and promotes compliance with environmental legislation.

To facilitate the provision of free environmental consultations, the organisation's online platform was upgraded with new features, including a dedicated form for submitting requests directly on the [EcoContact](#) website.

Solicită o consultație de mediu

Cum vă numiți?

Adresa de email

Telefon de contact

Descrieți pe scurt problema de mediu cu care vă confrunțați.

Informing the public and encouraging active participation in community life are central pillars of EcoContact's activity, fully in line with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on access to information and public participation in environmental decision-making. Throughout 2024, the organisation carried out more than 40 thematic information campaigns and awareness-raising activities on issues relevant to environmental and health protection, as well as marking major international environmental days.

15 monthly campaigns

As part of these activities, EcoContact conducted a series of 15 monthly campaigns under the "Green Justice" project, addressing topics such as air quality, climate change, waste management, biodiversity, and the right to a healthy environment.



The campaigns were supported by visual materials, informative articles, media interventions, and online distribution, tailored to different target groups. In this context, a monthly section was created – the Environmental Calendar. The list below reflects the themes and events that served as the basis for public communication and for promoting broader citizen participation.

- Be eco-friendly at work and in your daily life
- Food waste leads to hunger and climate change
- Illegal logging threatens the balance of the biosphere
- Vegetation fires – a devastating danger
- Support local producers – eat healthily and protect the environment
- Clean and sustainable mobility – the engine of a sustainable future
- Climate change – one of the greatest threats to the environment, society and the economy
- Plastic waste – a serious and widespread phenomenon
- Burning leaves endangers health and the environment



- Hazard symbols on chemical product labels
- November is tree planting month – plant for the future
- Energy saving
- Inspired ideas for sustainable gifts
- Fireworks – bright illusions with a harmful impact
- Promotion campaign and participation in the Forest Festival
- International Forest Day
- International Day of Forest Plantations
- World Day for Nature Reserves and Parks



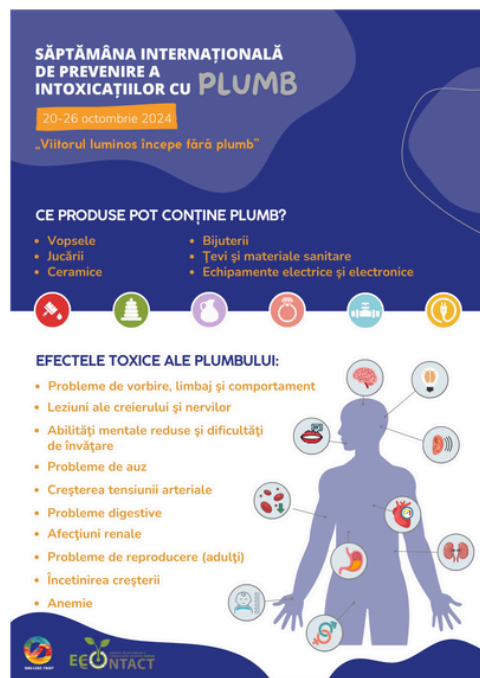
- World Energy Efficiency Day
- World Wetlands Day
- World Water Day
- International Bird Day
- Earth Day
- European Ecological Network Natura 2000 Day

- World Bee Day
- International Day for Biodiversity
- World Food Day
- European Day of Parks

15 monthly campaigns

carried out within the
"Green Justice" project

- [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)
- [World Environment Day](#)
- [Dniester Day](#)
- [International Hiking Day](#)
- [International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)



- [International Black Sea Day](#)
- [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#)
- [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)

...addressed topics such as air quality, climate change, waste management, biodiversity and the right to a healthy environment.

- [World Soil Day](#)
- [Human Rights Day](#)
- [World Population Day](#)
- [European Mobility Week](#)
- [World Cleanup Day](#)
- [Car-Free Day](#)
- [World Tourism Day](#)



EcoContact's achievements according to strategic areas

59

Policy documents and opinions prepared:

56

National level

3

Local level

6



working groups and intergovernmental commissions

8

Draft legislation and methodologies submitted for promotion (laws, government decisions, guidelines)



1

Environmental Strategy (2024-2030) technically supported and approved

1

Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for the Nistru River Basin Management Plan

4

Specialized guidelines developed/ distributed (biodiversity assessment, Emerald management plans, strategic litigation, right to a healthy environment)



1

Methodology approved for the management plans of Emerald sites

43

Information/education campaigns and informational materials

10

Free consultations offered in the field of environment

25



Training and education sessions

10

Guides and information materials

02 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development remained one of EcoContact's key strategic areas in 2024. All the organisation's activities and projects were directed towards balancing environmental protection, economic growth and social cohesion, with a strong focus on responsibility towards future generations. To achieve these objectives, EcoContact strengthened and expanded partnerships with central and local public authorities, research institutions, universities in Moldova and abroad, civil society organisations, the media, schools, the private sector and local communities. These collaborations amplified project impact and allowed solutions to be tailored to the specific needs of each region. The diversity of partnerships contributed to the implementation of innovative approaches in natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and the promotion of environmental education at all levels.

Conservation of biodiversity in protected areas and the Emerald Network

With the support of EcoContact, a comprehensive study was carried out on the legal and institutional framework and on the management of the Emerald Network in Moldova. The study provides clear recommendations for updating the lists of species and habitats across the 61 existing Emerald sites and proposes two additional candidate sites. Full details are available here: [Emerald Network Assessment](#). These new sites, however, require detailed field investigations, including an in-depth study and mapping of species and habitats.

A roadmap has also been drawn up to strengthen the Emerald Network and achieve a sufficiency index of 60% by 2026 and 80% by 2030, accessible at [Emerald Roadmap](#).

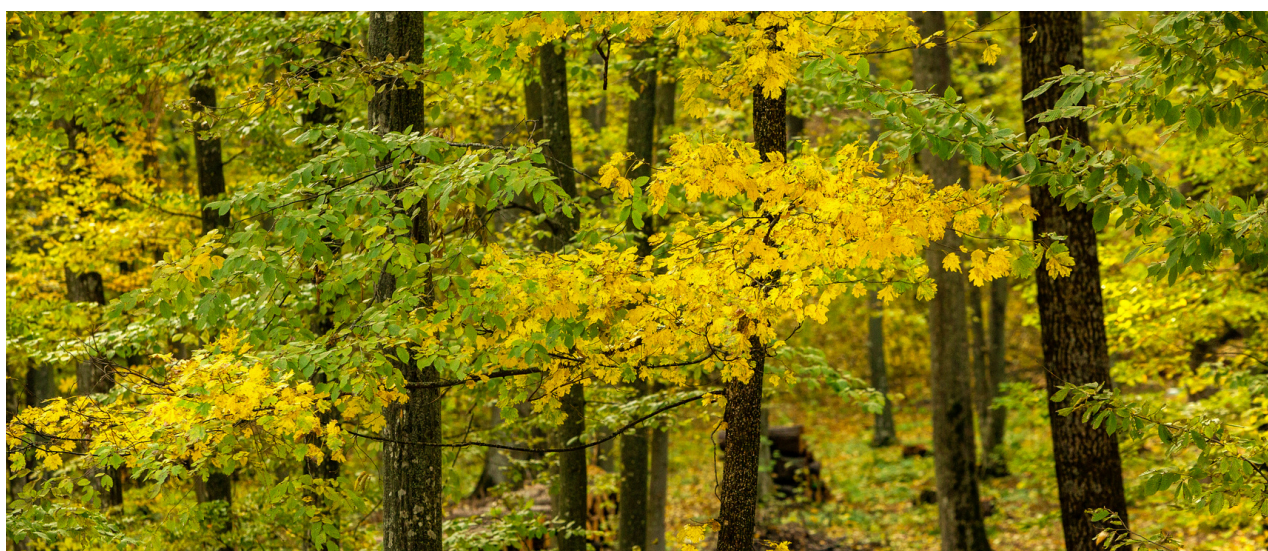


At the same time, with the support of EcoContact, detailed management plans were developed for the Emerald sites Codru, Vrancești Steppe, and Lower Dniester, which are to be submitted for official approval in 2025.

In order to facilitate access to information on protected areas, a concept for an integrated digital register has been initiated. Given that there is no automated information system (AIS) dedicated to protected areas and/or sites in the Emerald Network in the Republic of Moldova, a concept for a register of protected areas was initiated in 2024. This concept aims to create the technical and legal conditions for the subsequent development of an integrated information system that will include the state-protected natural areas mentioned in Law 1538/1998, as well as their internal zoning. This system, which will be developed gradually, will primarily inform citizens and authorities about the exact location of protected objects and their zoning and protection levels.



EcoContact developed a comprehensive study to identify the training needs for building a skilled workforce in the national forestry sector. The study not only highlighted gaps in existing educational programmes but also proposed new disciplines and specialisations relevant to modern and sustainable forest management, such as climate modelling, monitoring and forecasting technologies, and other components designed to make forestry more attractive for younger generations. The study's conclusions were reinforced by training sessions focused on enhancing institutional and professional capacities.



To strengthen professional capacities, EcoContact organised national and international events that brought together representatives of higher education institutions, non-governmental organisations, environmental authorities and the forestry sector. The events included:

- a series of workshops on strengthening the Emerald Network, focusing on identifying and addressing challenges that hinder the effective functioning and management of sites (the workshops also included technical sessions on the use of biodiversity assessment tools and the implementation of the Habitats Directive);

- a three-day training seminar that gathered representatives of higher education institutions, non-governmental organisations, environmental authorities and the forestry sector. The seminar highlighted the urgent need to adapt university curricula to new environmental challenges and to integrate the skills required for the sustainable management of natural heritage;



- a three-day training organised with the support of Propark SRL (Romania), focused on analysing the competencies required for protected area management and on developing a competency register for protected area administrations;

- three focus groups with women from the project's target protected areas, aimed at identifying their specific needs and opportunities;

- an exchange event between local public authorities from the Codrii Reserve, Orhei National Park and Lower Dniester National Park, where ongoing activities and implementation plans in the respective localities were discussed.



Local governance and community involvement

In 2024, EcoContact implemented a comprehensive programme of local interventions focused on strengthening environmental governance, supporting the implementation of national policies and promoting community participation in decision-making through seven local environmental platforms established in the districts and municipalities of Cahul, Ștefan Vodă, Căușeni, Ialoveni, Bălți, Hâncești and Fălești. Within this framework, four types of local acts were developed, tailored to the specific needs of each of the 187 localities covered by the platforms, addressing:

- regulation of grazing and mowing,
- detection and sanctioning of environmental offences,
- operation of administrative commissions,
- transparency of the local decision-making process.

798

locally **adapted**
regulatory documents

In total, 798 locally adapted regulatory documents were generated, of which 127 have already been approved in 50 localities across the seven districts.

127

documents approved

in

50

localities

out of

7

districts

To support local public authorities in implementing activities related to sustainable water resource management, EcoContact provided technical secretariat support in 2024 to the Frumoasa-Crihana Sub-Basin Committee and the Lăpușna Sub-Basin Committee. These committees bring together a wide range of local actors, including representatives of local public authorities, civil society organisations active in the field, irrigation associations, and other stakeholders in water resource management.

The main purpose of these consultative structures is to promote integrated water resource management at the sub-basin level through the active involvement of all relevant territorial actors. Their activities contribute to strengthening participatory governance, harmonising sectoral interventions and implementing the principles of the European Union Water Framework Directive, adapted to the local context.

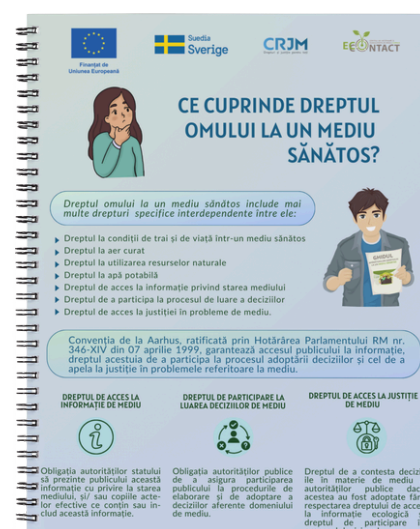
Research and publications

In 2024, EcoContact provided technical support to the State Hydrometeorological Service, as the national focal point for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in the process of preparing the [Fourth National Report](#). The report provides an overview of the state of desertification and land degradation neutrality in the Republic of Moldova, including a national presentation and narrative format of specific information. This report serves as a reference for the country's progress during the period 2016–2019 and aims to raise awareness and to support national authorities and development partners with expertise and benchmarks in fulfilling the legal prerogatives on combating desertification in the Republic of Moldova.

The activity included:

- analysis of trends in land cover, soil productivity and carbon stocks;
- use of satellite data and application of the official methodology established by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
- initiating the process of developing national thematic maps relevant for land degradation assessment;
- integration of high-resolution geospatial data into decision-making processes, with the aim of supporting national policies to combat desertification and promote sustainable soil management.

The [Guide for Human Rights Defenders](#) was updated to reflect the new legal provisions, including the publication of a Russian language version. This update was essential to ensure that human rights defenders are well-informed about recent legislative changes and can correctly apply the new regulations in their daily work. The updated Guide was distributed to local public authorities, paralegals and non-governmental organisations active in addressing environmental cases at the local level. These distributions were carried out to support their involvement in protecting human rights, especially in the context of the environmental challenges faced by communities.



In addition, to facilitate understanding and accessibility of information on the new legal provisions, [five explanatory infographics](#) were developed. These infographics were shared on the organisation's social media channels in order to reach a wider audience and raise awareness of human rights and recent legislative changes.

Programme de granturi

In 2024, AO EcoContact coordinated and implemented the Small Grants Program "Active Citizens for a Healthy Environment and Green Justice", funded by Sweden and intended for NGOs from eight target regions.

A total of 37 project proposals were evaluated by a Selection Committee, of which 12 were contracted, covering areas such as environmental education, climate change adaptation, energy efficiency, water management, waste management, education and awareness-raising.

37 projects
were evaluated

12 project
proposal
were contracted

To ensure the smooth implementation of contracts, EcoContact facilitated beneficiary training through reporting and communication workshops and carried out 21 monitoring visits to NGO offices and pilot activities. Technical and methodological assistance was provided to help beneficiaries meet the agreed indicators and address instances of non-compliance. In parallel, EcoContact supported beneficiaries through individual mentoring sessions focused on clarifying eligibility criteria and optimising expenditure.



Activities carried out under the Small Grants Programme also included support for two of the Ministry of Environment's key strategic programmes – the **National Forest Expansion and Rehabilitation Programme (PNERP 2023–2032)** and the **National Waste Management Programme (2023–2027)**.

Reforestation and green space development activities:

Afforestation of **1,7** ha
in the Risipeni Landscape Reserve
and **1,4** ha of land adjacent to the reserve,
Completing vegetation on **1** ha in urban and rural green spaces.



Environmental information and education campaigns:

- Organisation of themed drawing competitions and exhibitions (in Bălți municipality, Dubăsari district and the left bank of the Nistru River);
- Production of three episodes of the podcast “reMediu pentru Mediu cu Justiție Verde” (Remedy for the Environment with Green Justice);
- Organisation of the essay competition “The Forest and Life in It”, addressed to young people in Dubăsari district and on the left bank of the Nistru River.

Equipping localities with equipment for waste collection and processing:

- 1** - community composter for vegetable waste (Volintiri village – Ștefan Vodă);
- 2** - leaf composters (Crocmaș village – Ștefan Vodă);
- 2** - compost sets (3 pieces, 50 l each) for 2 high schools: I.I. "Alexei Mateevici" Theoretical High School, Zaim village, and I.I. "Meșterul Manole" Theoretical High School, Sălcuța village, Căușeni district;
- 10** - mesh bins for plastic waste (Crocmaș village – Ștefan Vodă);
- 13** - bins for paper and plastic;
- 6** - bins for glass (Hâncești municipality);
- 1** - shredder for branches and plant waste (Sălcuța village – Căușeni).

174 bins for
waste collection:
38 from the grant
and **136** from local public
administration
(s. Sălcuța – Căușeni),

128 waste bins:
38 from the grant
and **91** from the local
administration
(c. Zaim – Căușeni)

Sanitation and community mobilisation campaigns:

5 local clean-up campaigns were organized in the following localities: Andrușul de Sus village, Bălți municipality, Crocmaș village, Răzeni village, Puhoi village and Țipala village.

In order to strengthen journalists' capacity to investigate environmental issues and to foster civic participation and the involvement of authorities in addressing local challenges, **four grants** were awarded under the Small Grants Programme for Media "Community Journalism for a Healthy Environment and Green Justice".

A total of seven project proposals were evaluated, and four beneficiaries were selected: SRL Studio-L, SRL Satelrom-TV, Canal Regional SRL and Bright Communications SRL. Following implementation, the beneficiaries carried out **16 journalistic investigations, 14 thematic broadcasts** and **one documentary film**, covering topics such as waste management, pollution of the Răut River and green energy practices.

The investigations reached over **800 000** views on various platforms, generating reactions and public pressure for local solutions.

Basic investigations:

- "Waste eliminated - greened regions": impact and results
- With support from Sweden, investigative reporting capacities were strengthened at the local level within the media/news company Studio-L.
- Results and impact of the journalistic materials of the project implemented by Bright Communications – beneficiary of the grant programme
- Issues related to pollution of the Răut River in the municipality of Bălți addressed in investigative journalism

Impact:

- the authorities **cleaned up** the illegal dumpsite in Ulmu
- **improvements to the water infrastructure** were initiated
- residents began **reporting environmental problems**
- projects were submitted for the **replacement of water supply networks**



Another achievement implemented through the media, and a premiere for the environmental field in the Republic of Moldova, was the launch of the first podcast dedicated exclusively to environmental justice. The media product addressed relevant topics such as [environmental governance](#), [local environmental platforms](#),

[protected areas and reforestation](#), [environmental journalism and citizen involvement](#). Guests, including representatives of public institutions, the media and civil society, contributed to promoting the concept of 'green justice'. The first four published episodes recorded over 20,000 video views and more than 40,000 audio plays, becoming an accessible and effective information tool for the public.

In order to promote environmental awareness and responsibility, a series of activities were organised: a drawing competition for pupils, interactive quizzes, thematic workshops in schools, programmes for young lawyers, as well as planting and clean-up campaigns.

More than 400 young people from 60 educational institutions took part in the drawing competition "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – A Clean Environment for Future Generations", which mobilised pupils from seven districts of the country and culminated in public exhibitions, including at [the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History](#). The exhibition was also replicated at the first edition of the Forest Festival.

The academic school of environmental education for young lawyers combined professional training with civic engagement of students in the field of environmental law, encouraging the younger generation to get involved in promoting active and informed green justice.



2

Grant programmes:

4

Small grants for the media

12

Grants for NGOs

798

Local documents adapted developed

128 approved

in 50 localities

7

Local environmental platforms:

- Bălți
- Hâncești
- Ialoveni
- Ștefan Vodă
- Fălești
- Cahul
- Căușeni

Journalistic investigations and media materials:



16

investigations

14

broadcasts

1

documentary film

4

Episodes
podcasts published

over 20.000 views

over 40.000 listens



03 STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

In 2024, EcoContact further consolidated its role as an active player in environmental communication, participating in leading international events and initiating educational activities for the general public. Through its constant presence at international conferences, regional workshops and thematic forums, the organisation contributed to the exchange of best practices and alignment with European trends in the field of environmental governance, decision-making transparency and public participation.

Among the most relevant international participations in 2024 were:

9 Participation and representation at international events

- Tirana, Albania – subregional workshop. Improving RETP reporting for emissions reduction and more informed and sustainable decision-making (March 12-13)
- Bucharest, Romania – documentation visit to Romania on the transposition of EU environmental directives (March 19-20)
- Belgrade, Serbia – Aarhus Centres Meeting 2024 (October 16 -18)
- Online – Experience Exchange: Moldova – Ukraine on the EU Accession Process, via the Ukrainian National Platform of the of the EaP Civil Society Forum (October 31)
- Geneva, Switzerland – The ninth meeting of the Working Group on Access to Information under the Aarhus Convention (November 7-8)
- Vienna, Austria – first civil society summit within the PaE (19-12 November)
- Geneva, Switzerland – international discussions on the RETP Protocol and emissions registries (November 20-22)
- Chisinau, Moldova – Conference on drought and land degradation neutrality (April 22-24)
- Chisinau, Moldova – International scientific and practical conference "The State, Security and Human Rights in the Digital Age" (December 13)



Through these participations, EcoContact has increased the visibility of national efforts in the field of environmental protection and contributed to strengthening international cooperation, while promoting the values of participatory democracy, environmental justice and institutional accountability.

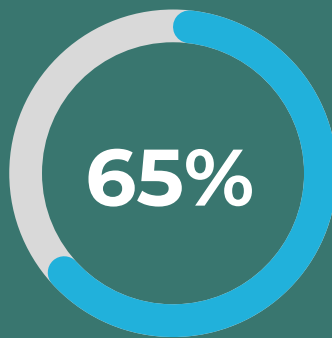


Financial situation – total expenditure 2024

704,580 EUR



Environmental legislation
and implementation of
the Aarhus Convention



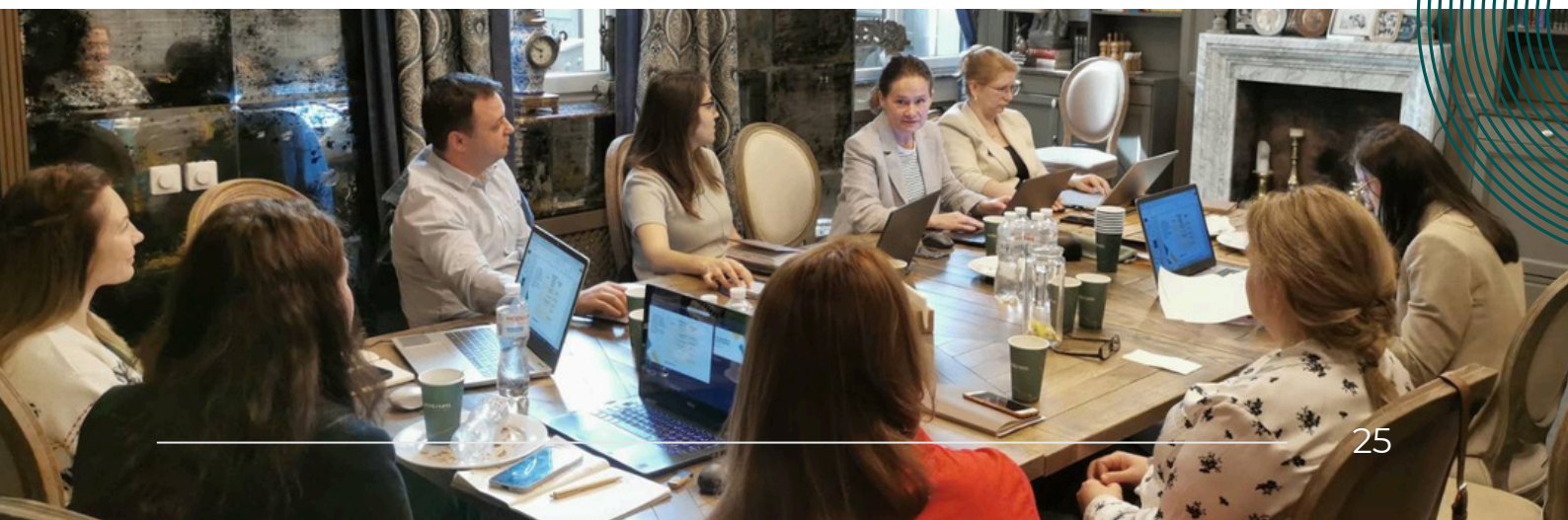
Sustainable development
and strengthening
partnerships



Organisational
development

In 2024, the organisation's total expenditure amounted to EUR 704,580, with priority given to sustainable development and partnership building activities.

Other major areas of resource allocation included environmental legislation and the implementation of the Aarhus Convention (33%), while 2% was dedicated to organizational development.



Thanks to our partners

Looking back at the achievements of 2024, we would like to express our deep appreciation to all our partners who have stood by us in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development. Every step forward, from strengthening the legal framework to getting local communities involved, shows how much we're all in this together and how valuable our partnerships are, built around a shared vision: a safer, healthier, and fairer environment for everyone.

Your constant support, whether technical, financial or strategic, has been essential in advancing our efforts. More than a partnership, this collaboration has been a concrete manifestation of our shared responsibility for the green future of the Republic of Moldova.

EcoContact remains committed to its mission and continues to act with determination, confident that only through cooperation, mutual trust and active involvement can we build effective policies, resilient communities and a protected environment. Thank you for your trust and your significant contribution to achieving our common goals.

In this context, we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to:

the Government of Sweden, the Austrian Development Agency, the European Union, the Stockholm Environment Institute, the United States Forest Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service), the EU4Environment Programme, the World Bank, UNEP, UNIDO, OECD, Global Environment Facility, as well as all national and local partners who have helped us achieve great things.



*Alone we can do so little; together
we can do so much*

(Helen Keller)



ECOCONTACT TEAM

DR. IORDANCA-RODICA IORDANOV
directoarea executivă a EcoContact și conferențiară la Facultatea de Drept, USM

...vizionară, cu gândire strategică și idei care surprind și inspiră

Recunoscută pentru contribuția sa la dezvoltarea legislației și politicilor de mediu. Cu un doctorat în dreptul mediului, peste 30 de ani de activitate civică, experiență ca ministru al mediului și secretar de stat, dna. Iordanov a susținut constant modernizarea cadrului legislativ și consolidarea politicilor de mediu, atât la nivel național, cât și internațional.

Prezidează Grupul de experți din Moldova, România și Ucraina pe rîul Prut. Grupul de lucru privind accesul la informație în cadrul Convenției UNECE, membră a Comisiei Naționale, a Comitetului de Supraveghere și Protocolului UNECE privind registrul de emisii și transferuri de poluanți și reprezintă Moldova în diverse grupuri internaționale.

Vizionară, cu gândire strategică, privește totul în ansamblu și în detalii. Suflul echipei - mereu cu idei care surprind și inspiră, aliniate unui management profesionist și autentic.

15 ani ECOCONTACT

sufletul echipei




NATALIA GURANDA
expertă de mediu și manageră de proiect


Creativă, dedicată și orientată spre soluții...

Contribuie de peste 11 ani la activitatea EcoContact, îmbinând expertiza tehnică cu pasiunea pentru protecția mediului. Este specializată în evaluarea impactului asupra mediului (EIA/SEA) și armonizarea politicilor naționale cu standardele UE.

Natalia se implică activ în inițiative strategice, precum tranziția Rețelei Emerald către Natura 2000, și coordonează proiecte internaționale care promovează sustenabilitatea și implicarea publicului în procesele de decizie.

Creativă, dedicată și orientată spre soluții, Natalia gestionează cu succes mai multe proiecte în paralel, aducând în echipă nu doar energie bună, ci și entuziasmul acela molipsitor care pune lucrurile în mișcare.

15 ani ECOCONTACT




TATIANA ECHIM
expertă de mediu și manageră de proiect

Cu atenție la detalii și o abordare realistă...

Are peste 15 ani de experiență profesională în managementul de mediu, cu accent pe guvernarea de mediu, politici și legislație orizontală, acces la justiție și informații, precum și gestionarea substanțelor chimice și a deșeurilor.

Are o vastă experiență în consultanță și management de proiecte naționale și internaționale, fiind adesea lider de echipă pentru elaborarea politicilor de mediu și studiilor de referință. Este autoare de ghiduri și materiale informative despre dezvoltarea durabilă și protecția mediului, dedicate atât specialiștilor, cât și instituțiilor de învățământ sau sectorului asociat.

Cu atenție la detalii și o abordare realistă, Tatiana anticipează orice risc, planifică în profunzime și caută întotdeauna să atingă cel mai înalt nivel în tot ceea ce face.

15 ani ECOCONTACT




IRINA PUNGA
expertă programe drept

... profesionalism, tenacitate și echilibru

Face parte din echipa EcoContact din 2013, unde activează ca expert programe drept. Analizează legislația de mediu, propune armonizări cu standardele UE și susține instituții pentru judecatori și procurori.

A contribuit la elaborarea unor prevederi importante privind autorizările de mediu, evaluările de impact, gestionarea emisiilor și alte acte legislative, lucrând în parteneriat cu diverse instituții și grupuri de lucru.

Președă la Facultatea de Drept a Universității de Stat din Moldova și este doctorandă în dreptul mediului.

Pe Irina o caracterizează tenacitatea, atenția la detalii și modul echilibrat în care abordează orice sarcină. Are o privire analitică și identifică soluții chiar și în situații complexe, fiind pentru echipă un reper de profesionalism și echilibru.

15 ani ECOCONTACT




ANNA CAZACU
juristă de mediu


...perseverență și dedicată

Juristă cu peste 10 ani de experiență, iar de 7 ani contribuie la activitatea EcoContact, îmbinând dreptul cu protecția mediului, oferind asistență juridică, se implică în elaborarea avizelor, studiilor și ghidurilor și organizează instruirii pentru cei interesați de un mediu mai sănătos.

Consideră că munca, dialogul și dedicarea, alături de expertiza juridică și respectul pentru mediu, pot aduce schimbări care să conteze cu adevărat.

Anna este perseverentă și dedicată, știe cum să ajungă la inima oamenilor și să creeze legături cu aceștia, acceptă orice provocare profesională și pune suflet în tot ce face, aducând energie și optimism în echipă.

15 ani ECOCONTACT






LARISA CUPCEA
manageră de proiecte

...se remarcă prin perspicacitate și rigurozitate

Face parte din echipa EcoContact din 24 ianuarie 2022. Are peste 17 ani de experiență în coordonarea proiectelor de mediu, acumulată alături de parteneri internaționali precum Banca Mondială, Agenția Austriacă pentru Dezvoltare, Agenția Elvețiană pentru Dezvoltare și Cooperare, PNUD, OSCE și Fondul Național de Mediu.

Expertiza ei în achiziții și strategii pentru proiecte complexe este dublată de o atenție specială la detalii și rigoare în tot ceea ce face. Larisa este cunoscută în echipă pentru modul atent în care pregătește fiecare etapă, întotdeauna măsurând de șapte ori înainte să ia o decizie, privește totul cu ochi de vultur și găsește soluții eficiente, fără să piardă din vedere obiectivele mari.

15 ani ECOCONTACT

ION MARIN
expert de mediu și manager de proiect

...sprijin de încredere în echipă, deschis și proactiv

Este expert de mediu și manager de proiect, cu peste 15 ani de experiență profesională în științe chimice, protecția mediului și coordonarea proiectelor finanțate de UE.

Deține un doctorat în științe chimice și are o carieră de cercetare în fotochimie. În prezent, coordonează inițiative naționale și internaționale dedicate rezilienței climatice, gestionării apelor și conservării biodiversității, fiind implicat activ în elaborarea politicilor de mediu din Republica Moldova.

Este colegul pe care te poți baza oricând pentru o mână de ajutor, gata să se implice în inițiative noi și deschis să exploreze domenii necunoscute. Știe să asculte, să încurajeze și să creeze o atmosferă în care echipa lucrează cu încredere și entuziasm.



15 ani **EcoCONTACT**

ANASATASIA POGOR
manageră financiară

...responsabilă, adepta soluțiilor eficiente

De șapte ani face parte din familia noastră în calitate de manager financiar și de două decenii împartenește cifrele cu oamenii. Pașunea și grija sa pentru detalii aduc mereu ordine și siguranță în fiecare inițiativă și proiect de echipă.

Cu o atenție deosebită la responsabilitate și transparență, este sprijinul pe care echipa se bazează atunci când vine vorba de soluții eficiente și bugete bine gestionate, corectitudine și perspicacitate.



15 ani **EcoCONTACT**

MARIA LAPTEANU
manageră de oficiu

Sociabilă și descurcăreță...

S-a alăturat echipei EcoContact în 2023 și la scurt timp a devenit persoana care are grija de evenimentele din cadrul proiectelor în curs de derulare să fie organizate și raportate donatorilor în mod meticolos.

Tot ea este persoana conexă tuturor proiectelor, asigurând suport la toate etapele de implementare a acestora. Are mereu pregătită o vorbă cu umor fin și o idee ingenioasă pentru orice situație, aducând energie bună în echipă.

Sociabilă și descurcăreță, Maria știe să găsească soluții pentru orice provocare.



15 ani **EcoCONTACT**

ALIONA TODICA
manageră de oficiu

...se remarcă prin discreție și spirit practic

Face parte din echipa EcoContact din 2011 și activează ca manager de oficiu. A fost alături de organizație de la primele etape de formare, având grija de planificarea și coordonarea logistică a activităților, oferind constant sprijin în organizarea evenimentelor.

Sustine managerul financiar în gestionarea și arhivarea documentelor interne și de proiect, contribuind la buna funcționare a echipei.

Întotdeauna atentă la nevoile celor din jur, Aliona se remarcă prin discreție, spirit practic și capacitatea de a găsi soluții pentru orice provocare organizatorică.



15 ani **EcoCONTACT**

TATIANA GUMENE
consultantă PR și comunicare

...optimistă, pozitivă și mobilizatoare

Are peste zece ani de experiență în comunicare și relații publice, construind strategii, povești și campanii pentru instituții guvernamentale, companii asociative și sectorul asociativ, iar din august 2022 la EcoContact, dă glas proiectelor de mediu și ajută comunitatea să se implice mai mult în protejarea naturii și a mediului înconjurător.

Optimistă, atentă la detalii și cu soluții la îndemână, Tatiana transformă orice provocare într-o oportunitate și reușește să mobilizeze echipa, punând accent pe lucrurile pozitive.



15 ani **EcoCONTACT**

VICTORIA STEGADESCU
consultantă social media & copywriter

Creativă și responsabilă...

Cu studii în Jurnalism și Științe ale Comunicării, Victoria activează în calitate de specialistă în comunicare în cadrul Oficiului Mobilități Academice al Universității de Stat din Moldova și oferă servicii de consultanță social media & copywriter echipei EcoContact.

Creativă și cu simțul estetic bine dezvoltat, Victoria aranjează în pagină și dă culoare campaniilor de informare, ghidurilor și altor materiale realizate de echipa noastră, contribuind la dezvoltarea unei comunicări prietenoase și coerente, adaptate publicului larg și divers.

Empatică și responsabilă, cu un ochi ager pentru detalii vizuale și tonul potrivit, transformă ideile în conținut accesibil și ușor de înțeles pentru oricine.



15 ani **EcoCONTACT**

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