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PRESS RELEASE

EU-supported restoration of degraded pastures in Orhei National Park will help improve people's lives in the region

CHISINAU, 2 October 2014 – Mayors of 12 municipalities of the Orhei National Park signed today grant agreements for projects aimed at restoring unproductive pastures on 35 sectors with a total area of 472 hectares. The total amount of grants provided in the framework of the [Clima-East project](#), funded by the [European Union](#) and implemented by the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP), is 185.110 Euro. The in-kind contributions of the communities are estimated at 177.000 Euro.

"Pasture restoration is done for the first time in the last 24 years in the Republic of Moldova. These projects will help enhance the productivity of pastures and the social and economic development of the communities of Orhei National Park," said the representative of the [Ministry of Environment](#), at the grants' awarding ceremony.

The 12 projects envisage restoration of the vegetal cover of degraded pastures by applying mineral fertilizer and over-seeding with highly productive forage species, resistant to climate change. Efficient pasture management - rational grazing, compliance with grazing capacity and optimal load as well as organization of parcelled pastures and implementation of grazing succession - will help increase pasture productivity by 2.5 times against current level and will revive rural livestock system. These practices can be replicated in other regions of Moldova.

"This project supported by the European Union aims at restoring one of the most important natural areas in the country – the Orhei National Park. It will help local people to respond to the challenge of adaption and mitigation of climate change and is part of larger EU initiative across the region", said Aneil Singh, Head of Cooperation of the [EU Delegation to Moldova](#).

Orhei National Park covers 33.8 thousand hectares and includes 18 communities in four districts - Orhei, Straseni, Calarasi and Criuleni. Created with UNDP's support, the National Park is a model of sustainable development through responsible use of natural resources, conservation and improvement of landscape, biodiversity, ecosystem services and cultural values.

"A better management of natural resources and harnessing their potential contributes to improving people's welfare. Over 5,200 families will improve their living conditions as a result of these projects", said Nicola Harrington-Buhay, UNDP Resident Representative in Moldova.

[Clima-East Moldova](#) is part of the regional initiative for Eastern Partnership countries. Implemented by UNDP, with the financial support of the European Union, the project contributes to the development and implementation of sustainable management models of natural resources in Moldova which increases ecosystems' capacity to sequester carbon under pending climate risks, while at the same time retaining biodiversity and economic values.

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