



### **Iris hungarica**

(*Iris aphylla ssp. hungarica*)

It flowers in April-May. It is 10-30 cm tall. The flowers are purple, often tinted purple. Its main habitats are the dry and semi-dry steppes, the grassy slopes and waste land scrubs.

### **Large copper butterfly (*Lycaena dispar*)**

It has wings of a bright coppery-orange, fringed with black. The undersides are silvery-blue with black spots. Some specimens have several black spots on the upper wing. The large copper butterfly emerges in July and lays its eggs on the leaves of great water dock (*Rumex hydrolapathum*). It has two generations each year, with adult flying from May to June, and again from July to August.



### **Danube Clouded Yellow**

(*Colias myrmidone*)

The wingspan is 44-50 mm. The butterfly flies in May and again from July to August (in two generations). The Danube Clouded Yellow occurs in dry, warm grassland.

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**The project's beneficiary** is Covasna County Council

**Duration of the project** is 21 months, between April 2014 and December 2015

**The overall objective** of the project is the protection and preservation of biodiversity and the natural heritage through the proper management of the protected areas administered by Covasna County Council, and to ensure the local community's and the visitors access to information on the natural values and thus contributing to their sustainable development. Further information about the project on [www.natcov.ro](http://www.natcov.ro), [www.natkov.ro](http://www.natkov.ro)

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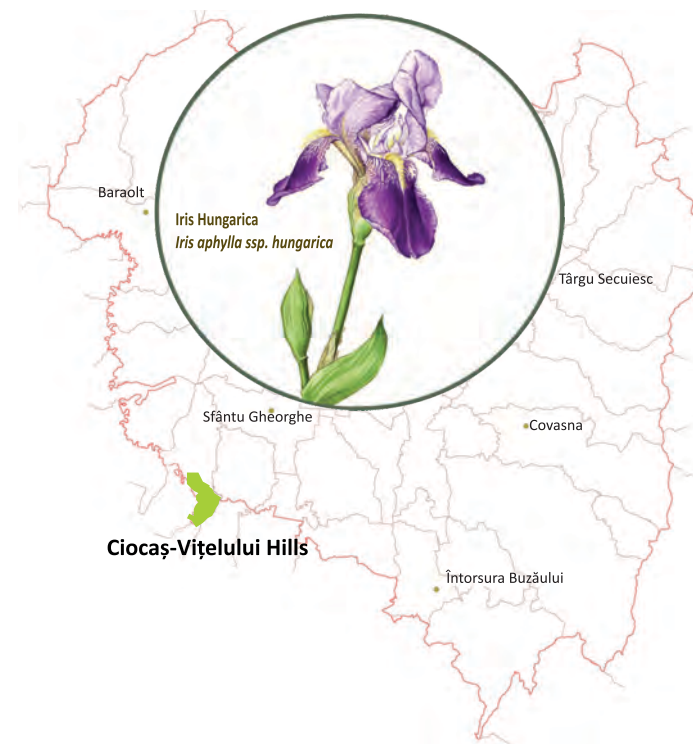
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## **Natura2000 Site Ciocaș-Vițelului Hills**

Proper Management of the Bodoc-Baraolt Mountains, Ciocaș-Vițelului Hills, Apa Roșie Peat Bog, Apa Lină -Honcsok Peat Bog, Upper Olt, Râul Negru, Ciomad-Balványos and Mestecănișul de la Reci Protected Areas



## The Natura 2000 Network

Natura 2000 is a network of nature protection areas in the territory of the European Union established in 1992. It is made up of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated respectively under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. These sites protect vulnerable habitats such as wetlands, which in turn helps to safeguard the animals and plants which need these places to survive. Across the EU a diverse range of habitats are protected, from flower-rich meadows to vast expanses of estuaries, even cave systems, and a huge variety of animals throughout the EU benefit from this, such as golden eagles, flamingos, otters and lynx.

### The Ciocaș-Vițelului Hills Natura 2000 Site, SCI0056



This Site of Community Importance (SCI) has a surface area of 917 ha. The site overlaps with the southern part of the Bodoc- Baraolt Mountains Natura 2000 site. The area has a wide range of scientific, biological, geological, and archaeological values. On the Tyiszk hill were discovered the archaeological remains of the Ariușd culture. It is an area with high hills, home to many steppe species. Steppe plant species are located on the southern and western slopes of the Ciocaș, Beldie and Vițelului hills. In the site there is a priority habitat of European interest (in danger of disappearing), we can also find peri-Pannonian sub continental shrubs and six species of Community interest.

#### The site is selected for the following species:



##### **Eurasian beaver** (*Castor fiber*)

One of the largest rodents in the world, they weigh around 11-30 kg. The semi-aquatic Eurasian beaver inhabits gentle streams, rivers, lakes and swamps. It generally favours freshwater habitats that are surrounded by woodland,

but may sometimes use a river or stream flowing through agricultural land or even urban areas. It was hunted to near-extinction for both its fur and castoreum. In Romania went extinct. The resettling actions started in 2006 and were successful.



##### **Yellow-bellied toad** (*Bombina variegata*)

This species is distributed over much of central and southern Europe. The species has an altitudinal range of 100-2000m. The yellow-bellied toad dwells in mountainous and hilly countries in middle and southern Europe. The larger of the males and females are between 35 and 55 mm. Their top side is grey-brown, often with washed-out, bright spots. Their underside is grey-blue to black-blue with striking, bright yellow to orange spots or patches. It is dependent on temporary small bodies of water on loamy ground, such as tractor trails, puddles, and small ditches.



##### **Northern crested newt** (*Triturus cristatus*)

Females can measure up to 16 cm, males measure 14 to 15 cm long. These newts have dark grey-brown backs and flanks, and are covered with darker-coloured spots so they appear almost black. Their undersides are either yellow- or orange-coloured and are covered in large, black blotches. Males can be distinguished from females by the presence of a jagged crest during the breeding season. It has an altitudinal range from sea level to 1,750 m asl. It can be found in coniferous, mixed and deciduous forests (composed of pine, birch, oak, alder etc.), their glades and edges, in forest steppe, bush lands, pastures, meadows, parks and gardens.