

# Current challenges in agriculture and environmental protection

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Economic growth and the quality of life are directly influenced by:

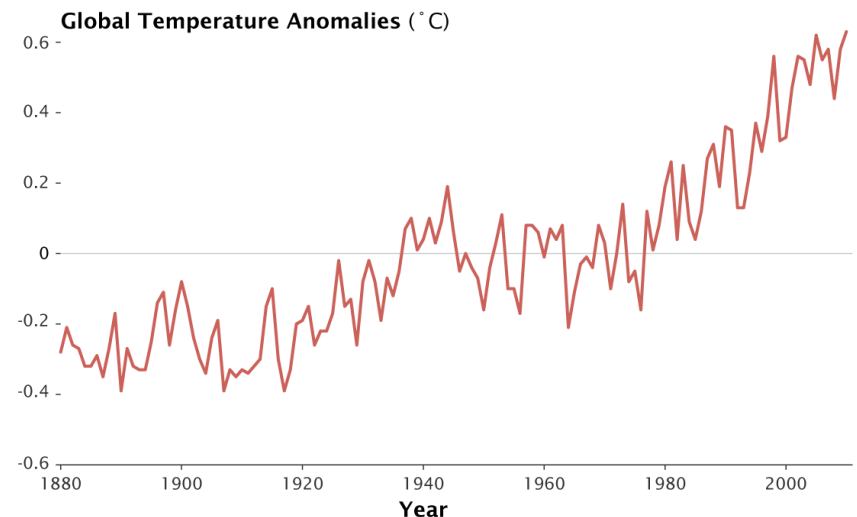
- the state of the environment and
- the efficient use of natural resources

**“In this era of tightening world food supplies, the ability to grow food is fast becoming a new form of geopolitical leverage. Food is the new oil. Land is the new gold.”**

***Lester R. Brown***



- The earth's climate is changing and becoming unreliable and unpredictable.
- As the earth's temperature rises, it affects agriculture in many ways.
- So far, we've raised the average temperature of the planet just **under 0.8 degrees Celsius**, and that has caused far more damage than most scientists expected. **A third of summer sea ice in the Arctic is gone, the oceans are 30 percent more acidic.** The atmosphere over the oceans is **five percent wetter**, which can cause devastating floods.
- Agriculture is one of the major sources of pollutants, with a negative impact on the quality of the environment, through the degradation or even the destruction of ecosystems.
- Intensive farming can lead to pollution of soil and water by excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides.
- Intensive grazing and irrational exploitation of forest and land are causing massive soil erosion.
- Incorrect irrigation and drainage lead to intensification of soil degradation and increased environmental pollution.
- Irrational and uncontrolled use of chemical fertilizers causes soil acidification, pollution of groundwater and surface waters.



# The European Union policy for environment and agriculture

- The EU policies are aimed at:
  - increasing the income of small farmers
  - maintaining/improving environmental quality
  - focusing interest on agricultural development
- The EU is focusing on developing strategies to adapt to climate changes and diminish their effects.
- The EU needs to develop methods of response to the new global challenges and invest more in research and innovation.



# The natural patrimony of Romania

Romania has the most **diverse and valuable** natural patrimony.

- The Carpathian Mountains with forests that are still virgin
- The Lower Danube, the Danube Delta
- The pontic area of the Black Sea



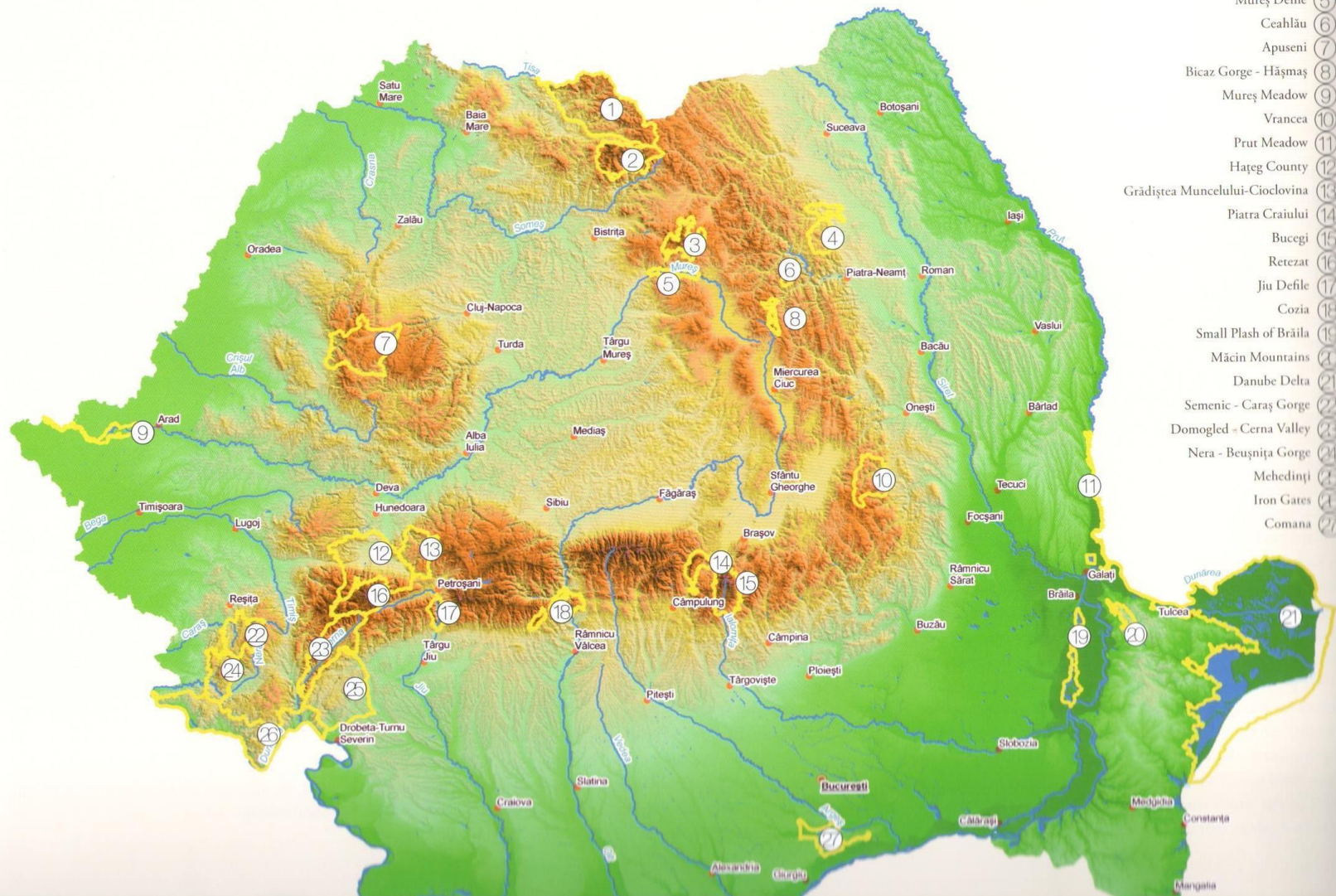
## **We have over 1,300 protected areas:**

- 13 national parks
- 15 natural parks
- 44 scientific reserves
- 206 monuments of nature
- 699 nature reserves
- 3 biosphere reserves
- 12 wetlands

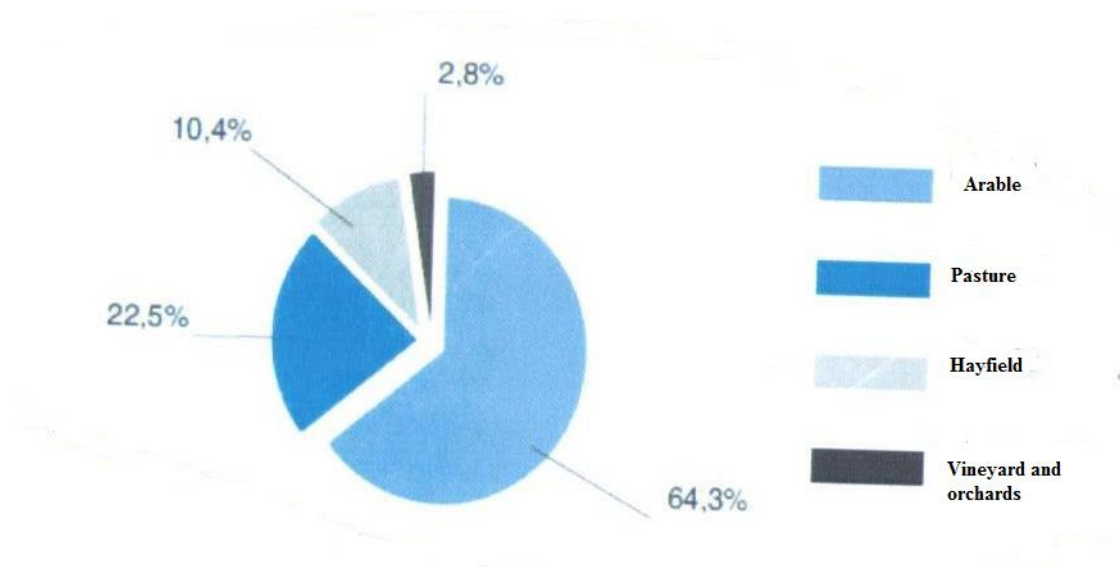




# The Parks of Romania



- Romania has an agricultural area of 14.7 million hectares.
- The dominant feature of Romanian rural economy is the very high percentage of small farms producing mainly for their own consumption.
- This trend affects the agriculture in our country and its competitiveness.
- More and more people are leaving their villages and moving to towns.
- There is a chronic lack of opportunities for the Romanian peasants and farmers.
- Romanian authorities should support access to modern technology for the farmers.
- Over 80% of agricultural parcels in Romania are at the limit load, due to soil fertilization with manure and nitrogen based fertilizer.





## Priority Directions and international initiatives

- The threats to nature are more acute than the ones on the economy, and the losses caused by the current economic crisis are definitely lower than the danger of a potential planetary disaster caused by global warming.
- Public authorities must show both **an objective understanding** of the phenomenon of the evolution of economic relations, and also **the courage and strength** to oppose the economic interests of the community to the need to preserve the balance of nature and a healthy natural environment.

### Promoting sustainable agriculture in harmony with the environment:

- Respect all biological and ecological principles that exist in the natural ecosystems
- Develop a farming systems able to sustain itself by conserving resources and continually improving soil fertility
- Provide resources primarily through their regeneration within the ecosystem

# The reorientation of taxes - The principle Eco economics

- Reducing income taxes and raising taxes on the environmentally destructive activities - an ecological tax reform with a double profit: creating jobs and protecting the environment.
- States should initiate large international debate forums. An example of this is the initiative of Kazakhstan:

## The Green Bridge Conference

The 2013 Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan, with over 100 participants from different governments of the world, was an ambitious call to find the path to a "green economy".

The Green Bridge Conference proposed a resolution with the following principles:

- consolidating national initiatives for the sustainable use of natural resources
- boosting resilience to climate change
- supporting the country's transition to a green economy
- international cooperation through technology transfer
- facilitating economic development

Is it in our power to avoid catastrophe? Or are we all heading towards the final disaster?

**Revelation,  
Chapter 21, Verse 1**

Then I saw “a new heaven  
and a new earth,” for the  
first heaven and the first  
earth had passed away,  
and there was no longer  
any sea.





Thank you for your  
attention!