

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Conservation of the endangered Danube Clouded Yellow (*Colias myrmidone*) in Natura 2000 sites of Romania



Female of the Danube  
Clouded Yellow butterfly  
(*Colias myrmidone*)

Source: T.-C. Vizauer

#### Background

The habitat of the Danube Clouded Yellow butterfly is characterised by a small-scale functional and niche diversity in the transitional zone between forests and pastures. Thus, this butterfly species is dependent on a diverse cultural landscape. Landscape standardisation and homogenisation through overgrazing or succession leads to a significant and rapid decline of its occurrences. In the last 15 years, this butterfly has become extinct in numerous EU member states. To protect its habitats and occurrences, the EU listed it in the Annexes II and IV of its Habitats Directive. Some of the last known habitats of the species are in Romania. There, however, their populations are now endangered, too.

#### Project details

The project aimed at supporting the conservation efforts for the butterfly in three Natura 2000 sites and to prevent a further decline of the species together with the local population. Therefore, experts from Romania and Germany investigated the requirements of the species for its habitat as well as – in dialogue with the local population – the land use methods, which have enabled the survival of the species in Romania so far. Together they derived proposals, which integrate conservation efforts and land use. The knowledge gained during this project can contribute to the management plans of the Natura 2000 sites in the project region as well as be used for conservation or reintroduction efforts in other European countries, where the butterfly once occurred, e.g. in Germany. In order to provide access to this information also after the end of the project, a brochure and a short documentary film were produced in English and in the languages of the project region: Romanian and Hungarian. Scientific findings of this project were published in specialist journals.

Updated: November 2022

**Project country:** Romania

**Duration:** 06/2017 – 11/2022

**Beneficiaries:** Nature conservation administrations of the counties Harghita and Cluj, local population, experts

**Implementing organisations:**

Leuphana University of Lüneburg,  
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

**Project numbers:** 89475, 110311

**Thematic management:**

Federal Agency for Nature  
Conservation (BfN)

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**Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)**

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

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[www.uba.de/en/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme](http://www.uba.de/en/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme)  
[www.uba.de/en/advisory-assistance-programme](http://www.uba.de/en/advisory-assistance-programme)

**Project website:**

<https://bit.ly/DanubeCloudedYellow>