Annex 6 BIODIVERSITY – 8 Data on the presence, location, surface and ecology of species and/or habitats of community interest mentioned in the standard site form

The habitat is defined as the territory inhabited by an individual, a species or a group of individuals of a species, within which the respective population finds a uniform complexity of living conditions, adapting to them. Natural habitats mean terrestrial or aquatic areas that are distinguished by certain geographical, abiotic and biotic, natural or semi-natural characteristics. The target habitats are the habitats presented in the Natura 2000 form for which the site has been proposed for protection and conservation. The description of a habitat is made taking into account the phytocenoses (cenotaxons) that compose it. The correspondence between the types of habitats and the types of phytocenoses (cenotaxons) (Gafta & Moutford, 2008) is based on the following theoretical premises:

1. The habitat, in the sense given in the Habitats Directive and adopted for the Natura 2000 program, actually represents an ecosystem or a group of ecosystems (Doniţă et al., 2005). This is evident from the name and description of the types of habitats, in which references are made not only to the characteristics of the ecotope, but especially to those of the biocenoses that occupy the respective stations.

2. A cenotaxon (elementary or lower) must correspond to a single type of Natura 2000 habitat, a condition imposed by the need to individualize the types of habitats as clearly as possible. This correspondence was made taking into account the ecological optimum of plant communities, because some can appear - in the form of sub-associations or regional variants - in several types of habitats.

3. A Natura 2000 habitat type can correspond to several plant associations or lower cenotaxons, both due to the relatively broad ecological connotation attributed to the habitat type, and to the numerous combinations of plant species (species assemblages) that can form in different but ecologically equivalent stations.

4. The simple presence of some plant species, indicated in the EU Habitats Interpretation Manual as important for the characterization and identification of some types of habitats, does not necessarily imply the existence of the corresponding habitats in the field. In general, the recognition species must be integrated into well-defined biocenoses, whose synecology reflects the abiotic conditions of the respective habitat.

5. The plant associations built by adventitious species, recently naturalized on the territory of Romania, were not taken into account for the characterization of habitat types. This is justified by the fact that one of the objectives of the Natura 2000 program is the conservation of (semi)natural habitats, representative of each biogeographic region in the EU space.

Thus, for each habitat from the Natura 2000 lists described in the sites studied by the project, the plant species as well as the plant associations made by them are tracked, according to the Manual for the interpretation of Natura 2000 habitats from Romania, correspondence and analyzes being carried out within Annex 6 BIODIVERSITY - 2.

Aspects regarding the conservation objectives as they were established for each individual site, are presented in Annex 6 BIODIVERSITY - 3. Going through the situation thus defined, for many species the situation remains uncertain, as there are no known aspects regarding their (certain) presence and distribution at the regional level (and from the level of each individual site). For some of the sites, the state of conservation, the objectives and/or the measures considered had not been defined until the time of this analysis. In this sense, it should be mentioned that an analysis at the regional level cannot be approached unitarily, a critical analysis of the existing data being necessary and therefore, the extensive use of expert analysis.