

## **THE NECESSITY OF PROTECTIVE FORESTRY CURTAINS IN ROMANIA IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

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One of the problems exacerbated by climate change is the lack of forest cover. An initiative successfully implemented more than 100 years ago now has no active national programme, and this is accelerating desertification in Romania.

This article aims to analyse the situation of forestry curtains at the national level and to show their importance and necessity in the fight against climate change.

The motivation for choosing this theme is due to the major problem posed by climate change, characterized by long periods of high temperatures and low rainfall that have led to an increased vulnerability towards desertification, making the effects in Romania devastating. All areas are affected, especially the south of the country, where the forested area is extremely deficient (5% of the territory) compared to the national average of 29% and the European average of 35%. Forestry plantations on just 3% of land can increase production by more than 30% in dry years. This is a very good solution both for the environment, roads, railways and waterways, for maintaining and increasing biodiversity, reducing snow clearing costs and maintaining a good microclimate. In addition to all this, forestry plantations absorb a large amount of CO<sup>2</sup> from the atmosphere. Under optimal ecological conditions, a 25 m<sup>2</sup> leaf area can release as much oxygen as a human need in the same unit of time.

Territorial Administrative Units (TAU) should be encouraged to plant at least 15% of their area with protective forests for communities, roads and agricultural land. Municipalities need financial support and expertise for implementation.