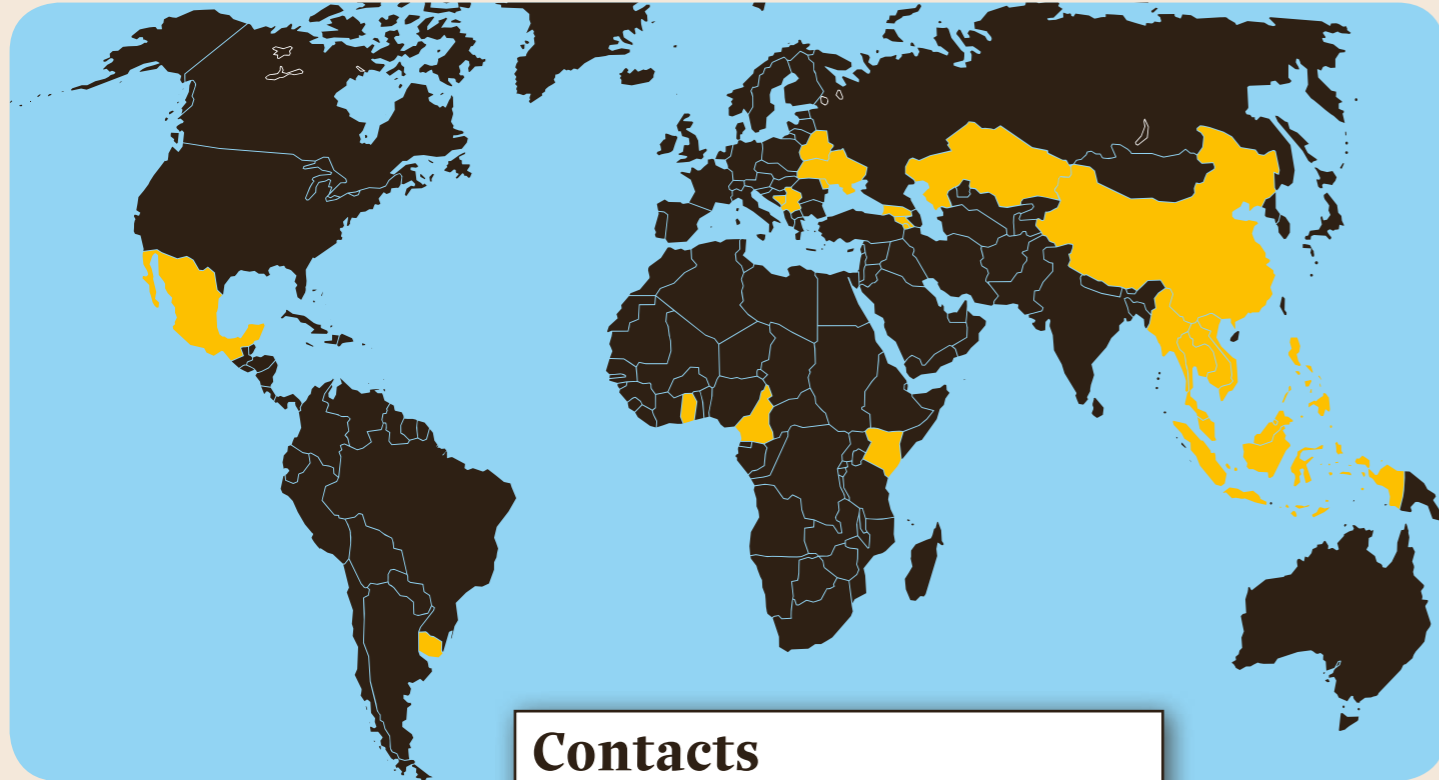


Arnika's past and current projects in the world



Contacts

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Support of local groups – tree planting

along rivers to protect the riverbeds from damage and the inhabitants from floods, 2000–2022.



Excursions and community events

We and our partners organize excursions (to showcase examples of nature conservation and soft tourism – Lower Dniester National Park, Orhei National Park or Iagorlic Reserve), community events and celebrate important international days (Earth Day, Environment Day, World Cleanup Day, European River Swimming Day) which remind people of the importance of a healthy environment.

Building bridges between the Dniestr riverbanks

Protecting the environment is an excellent way to bring together people from both banks of the Dniester. Arnika supports active people on both sides and creates occasions for joint activities, meetings, and exchanges of experience.



We protect the environment for future generations

Who are we?

Arnika is a Czech non-profit organization that has been uniting people striving for a better environment since 2001. Our mission is to protect nature and a healthy environment for future generations both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

What do we do in Moldova?

- Active in the country since 2020
- Collaboration with two partners – Biotica & Eco-TIRAS
- Our topics – protecting rivers, planting trees, supporting civic society, building trust between the Dniester riverbanks
- Our work is funded by the Transition Promotion Programme of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic



What have we achieved?

Between 2020 and 2022:

- We organised **13** workshops and seminars for local communities, including nature guardians.
- Experts and volunteers installed **20** artificial bird nests and **10** fish nests for endangered species.
- We built shelters over springs, arranged **2** landfills and placed information boards for visitors to nature areas.
- We organised **8** community events to clean riverbanks and celebrate international environmental days.

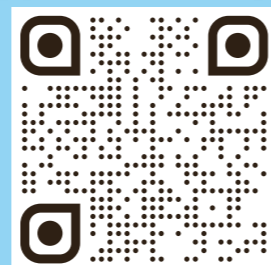
We created a film describing the demise of small rivers due to intensive agriculture and careless landscaping.



Guardians of Moldovan nature

We support training of professional and voluntary rangers. The rangers educate people about proper behavior and importance of nature. They also report breaking of the laws in protected natural areas.

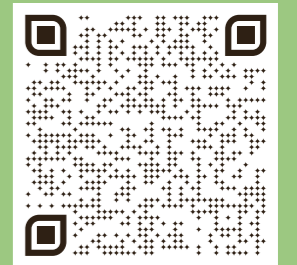
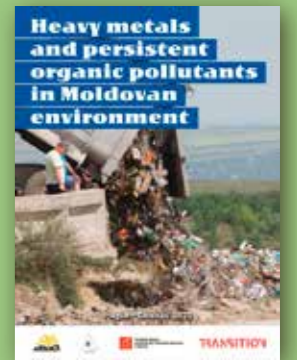
- **4** workshops for **93** future rangers in **4** sites
- Published guidelines for voluntary rangers in Romanian and Russian (see box on the right)
- We collect rangers' field experience and prepare a report based on their stories
- Shot a movie about the Iargorlic natural reserve:



Advocacy, campaigns, lobbying

Between 2020-2021, Eco-TIRAS and Arnika ran several campaigns, and achieved the following results:

- We uncovered and reported on **illegal constructions of luxury villas** on the banks of the Dniester as well as on illegal sale of endangered species (fish) from the Red List.
- We achieved the extension of the **ban on imports of synthetic fishing nets** (used by poachers) until 2030.
- We published a **shadow report on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention**, Recommendations for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, Environmentally friendly agriculture for water protection, and Environmental destruction in the times of coronavirus.
- In cooperation with the Institute of Chemical Technology Prague, we took samples of the water from the Dniester, agricultural soil and chicken eggs and published and presented a **study describing the impact of several major industrial plants on the environment** (see cover and QRC on the right).
- We made concrete **proposals to improve environmental inspection**, and after our intervention, a major polluter of the Dniester was fined 11,000 EUR.
- We organized **demonstrations to finance nature conservation** from the State budget, held talks, wrote letters, issued an analysis and drafted priorities for the new government to address. In December, 2021 the Parliament attributed 1 M EUR for nature conservation.
- The Parliamentary Committee took up our proposal to **amend the Fisheries Act** on the Environment.
- We prepared an online **map of the biggest industrial polluters of Moldova**. (<https://arnika.org/en/hotspots/moldova>)



Since 2022, Biotica and Arnika communicate with the Environmental Inspectorate to **secure a better nature guardians' respect, protection, preparation and equipment**. We also organise round tables and working groups in selected municipalities in the Lower Dniester National Park in order to include the general public in the creation or amendment of local strategic development plans. In 2023, we run a **campaign in support of creating green belts** to eliminate wind and water erosion and improve ecosystem functions of the landscape.

